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FRASER, BARBARA BAIRD. **Eight Versions of a Mother Holding Her Baby.** (1972) Directed by: Mr. Andrew George Martin.
Pp. 2

It was the purpose of this thesis to explain the process employed in painting the eight paintings which I have submitted as my thesis proper, and to explain what I sought and feel I achieved in doing these paintings.

MICHAEL DAVID FRASER

A Thesis Submitted to
The Faculty of the Graduate School of
The University of South Carolina at Greenville
In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Fine Arts

Greenville
1972

Approved by

Andrew Martin
Thesis Advisor

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APPROVAL PAGE

This thesis has been approved by the following

EIGHT VERSIONS OF A MOTHER HOLDING HER BABY

by

BARBARA BAIRD FRASER

A Thesis Submitted to
the Faculty of the Graduate School at
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Fine Arts

Greensboro
1972

Approved by

Andrew Martin
Thesis Adviser

April 24, 1972
The University of North Carolina

APPROVAL PAGE

This thesis has been approved by the following committee of the Faculty of the Graduate School at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

... encouraged me and gave me generous assistance, Professor Barker, Dr. North, Miss Gregory and Mr. Carpenter. I particularly appreciate the patience and excellent suggestions of Professor Barker and Dr. North.

Thesis Adviser Andrew Martin

Oral Examination Committee Members Paul Martin

Walter Barker

Andrew Martin

Jean Gregory

August 24, 1972
Date of Examination

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EIGHT VARIATIONS OF A MOTHER HOLDING HER BABY 1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my appreciation to those who encouraged me and gave me generous assistance, Professor Barker, Mr. Martin, Miss Gregory and Mr. Carpenter. I particularly appreciate the patience and excellent suggestions of Professor Barker and Mr. Martin.

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These eight slides, which have been submitted for filing in the University of North Carolina at Greensboro library, are hereby incorporated into the text of my written thesis by this reference.

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My thesis proper consists of eight paintings, each of which is done in acrylics on a canvas measuring twenty six inches by thirty-eight inches.²

The paintings are all of the same subject, a mother holding her baby in her arms. Each painting was begun with a tracing of those figures which was traced from a water copy made from an earlier painting.

In doing the painting of the mother and baby, I tried to emphasize intimacy by having the heads nearly

N.B. My thesis proper consists of eight paintings, numbered one through eight, slides of which have been submitted for filing in the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Library. These slides are incorporated into the text of my written thesis by this reference.

The reason for repeating subject matter in my paintings was so that I could experiment with line and color and develop new ideas without the distraction of concern with subject matter and balance. This experi-

²Color slides of these paintings have been submitted for filing in the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Library. The paintings are listed in the List of Figures, graphs, and the method for labeling the slides is consistent with the method of listing employed in the List of Figures.

EIGHT VERSIONS OF A MOTHER HOLDING HER BABY

My thesis proper consists of eight paintings, each of which is done in acrylics on a canvass measuring twenty six inches by thirty-eight inches.¹

The paintings are all of the same subject, a mother holding her baby in her arms. Each painting was begun with a drawing of these figures which was traced from a master copy made from an earlier painting.

In doing the painting of the mother and baby, I tried to emphasize intimacy by having the heads nearly touch each other, and by having the mother hold the baby closely. I also tried to emphasize this intimacy through similarity of brushwork in the head areas.

The reason for repeating subject matter in my paintings was so that I could experiment with line and color and develop new ideas without the distraction of concern with subject matter and balance. This experi-

¹Color slides of these paintings have been submitted for filing in the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Library. The paintings are listed in the List of Figures, supra, and the method for labeling the slides is consistent with the method of listing employed in the List of Figures.

mentation with line and color was an important purpose of my painting.

In A Mother Holding Her Baby, Number One² I noticed emerging a pattern of dark areas similar to a Hogarth curve. I emphasized this pattern in some of my subsequent paintings and one of these paintings is included in my thesis proper.³

Having completed several paintings similar to Painting Number Two, I began to experiment with impasto and arbitrary color. This experimentation was involved in a number of my subsequent paintings, and six of these paintings are included in my thesis proper.⁴

I feel that Paintings Numbered Three through Eight are more significant than Paintings Numbered One and Two. I view the former as a progression from the earlier paintings to a more complete satisfaction of my desire for expression and spontaneity.

²Since the titles of my paintings are identical except for numbers, the paintings are hereinafter identified by number, e.g., Painting Number Two, and Paintings Numbered Three through Eight.

³Painting Number Two.

⁴Paintings Numbered Three through Eight.