

THESIS

BODY IS AN EXPERIMENT OF THE MIND: WITH AND WITHOUT SELF

Submitted by
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ABSTRACT

BODY IS AN EXPERIMENT OF THE MIND

Materials and process are aspects in developing the work from my own experience including empathizing with the human condition. The work itself is not conceptual but inspired by conceptual structures that influence form, giving a sense of experience separate from a narrative; an experience for the body, prompting memory. The work is about a psychological space, an illusion or suggestion of emotion, or thought, about being and not being, and the tension that exists in that space.

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Dedications

I would like to dedicate this to my mother Marlene Spindler, for her constant support, encouragement, and love.

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“Body is an Experiment of the Mind” is an intimation of corporeality; a thought that describes the self as a socially and environmentally vulnerable concept of body and mind; it is a metaphor for the experience of the physical and the metaphysical, giving form through texture of time and space. From the structure of cultural concept and memory, my experience as a woman is a place of departure.

Art is a format where morality is suspended, where reflection on social and cultural taboos are explored to stimulate thought and give presence to form. George Batailles’ theory of immanent immensity describes the point in where man departs from nature and how through the process of ritual, religion, and ultimately art, he attempts to unify man back into nature.¹ Art is a format where morality is suspended, where reflection on social and cultural taboos

¹ The concept that man and nature were once unified, at the point in time where man exercised power over nature that created a gap in the relationship. Bataille describes the journey in which man tries to recreate that unification through practicing taboos in a religious setting, crossing over into a state where man exists within the laws of nature rather than humankind. He concludes that these attempts at unification fail in religion, but might succeed in art.

are explored to stimulate thought and give presence to form.

My thesis is based on a parallel crescendo, where I ask where woman is to nature as man is to culture. I look at western cultural structure in which has guided mental and physical development, to unveil a human journey that is also a feminine one; giving form to construction of the self.

My investigation is the experience of an unsure identity, which embodies femininity, how it is natural and unnatural, transformed by unifying women and humanity, concept and corporality, the tension between knowing, and perceiving, and the state of being with and without self

I am extracting from an understanding of cultural structures that are invisible in concept but tremendous in form; biological differences, and the differences between sex and gender. My work illuminates the presence of the physical self in contrast to a psychological or conceptual one, what the union is and what relationship the body and mind have to create identity.



1. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Title



2. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Entrance



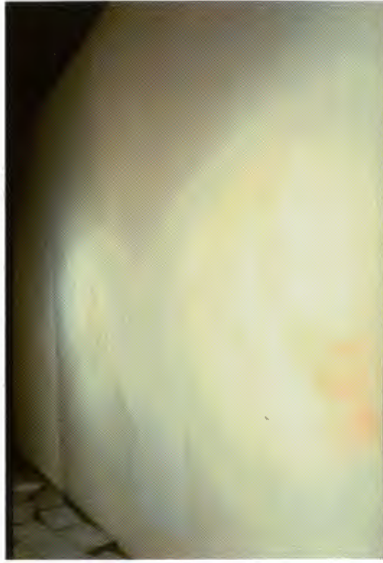
3. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Detail



4. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Demonstration



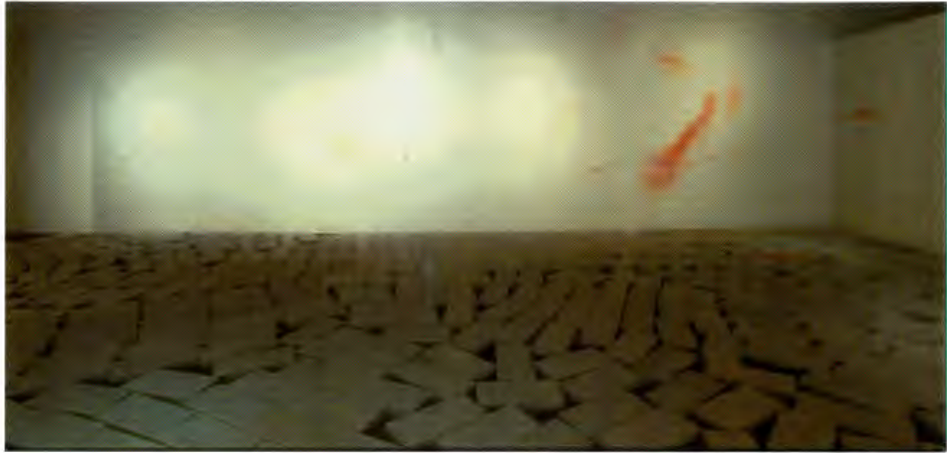
5. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Main Room



6. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Detail



7. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Detail



8. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Main Room



9. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Main Room



10. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Lead Body/ Bed



11. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Detail



12. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Detail



13. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Fibers Work I



14. Body Is An Experiment of the Mind. Fiber Work II