

Ilse Bolle

Statement

Growing up in rural Germany, I developed a special bond with nature. I loved creating with seedpods, tree bark, twigs, vines and grasses and, to this day, still gather most of the materials that I incorporate in my work.

Layers of handmade paper, with inclusions of textural elements, and knotted stick structures of willow and tamarisk are the bases for my fiber constructions. This process allows me to enclose space and explore a relationship between flat and curved surfaces. I strive for simple, yet strong forms, always working with the natural color of the materials. I am attracted to paper and the process of making it because the meshing and bonding of individual fibers create a strong yet pliable substance rich in texture. I enjoy slight, tactile imperfections and often emphasize them for their organic beauty. Found objects in the form of rusted metal find their way into my work because I value the past and its remains, for they provide insight to the present and connections to the future.

Each piece, conceptually, starts out as a perfect form. As in nature, elements and forces alter each form, leaving their marks for the viewer to perceive. Window-like openings allow entry to or exit out of a symbolic space holding memories, experiences, attitudes and desires. This process directly relates to experiences I encounter in life which are a primary inspiration for my work.

Education

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois; BS Ed. 1982, MA 1987
Trillike-Gut, Hildesheim, Germany 1967 – 1969

Selected Exhibitions

Vivo Contemporary Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico 2011 – 2015
Free Form, Santa Fe, New Mexico 2014
Gaucho Blue, Penasco, New Mexico 2014
Johnsons of Madrid, Madrid, New Mexico 2011
Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, Illinois 2013, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2005, 2004
Peter Jones Gallery, Chicago, Illinois 2006
Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 2006
Arts and Riverwoods, Riverwood, Illinois 2005
BAAC Gallery, Barrington, Illinois 2003, 2001, 1999, 1994
Around The Coyote, Chicago, Illinois 2000, 1999, 1998, 1996
S.O.F.A., Chicago, Illinois 1990 – 1997
SIU School of Medicine, Springfield, Illinois 1997

NIU Art Museum, Chicago, Illinois 1996, 1992, 1987
8th International Triennale of Tapestry, Lodz, Poland 1995
Lightside Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico 1993, 1992
Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois 1992, 1986
A.R.C. Gallery, Chicago, Illinois 1992, 1990
Gallery Ten, Rockford, Illinois 1991, 1990, 1989
Clay and Fiber Gallery, Taos, New Mexico 1990 - 2007
Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, Illinois 1988
University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois 1988

Selected Collections

Embassy Suites, Chicago, Illinois
Information Resources, Cleveland, Ohio
Zurich Reinsurance Centre, Inc. New York, New York
Graphic Press, Guadelajara, Mexico
Private collections

Publications

American Style, Washington D.C., Summer, 1996
Fiberarts Design Books III, IV, V, Lark Books, Ashville, North Carolina,
1987, 1991, 1995
La Plantz' Slide Kit Subscription Service, Bayside, California, March 1990
The News Basket, Bayside, California, October 1988
Fiberarts, Ashville, North Carolina, January/February 1987
American Craft, New York, New York, December 1985 / January 1986