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womanMADE



GALLERY

The Artist's "Emotional Body"

Journeying Through Elka Kazmierczak's Quilted Linocuts

Opening Reception: Fri., May 1, 6-9 p.m.

CHICAGO - Woman Made Gallery is proud to present *The Emotional Body*, a series of quilted linocuts that portray womanhood by depicting a journey in search of the boundaries of body, personality, and strength. Artist Elzbieta (Elka) Kazmierczak renders the feminine body expressively, relying on compositional and figurative dramatizations creating a series of works about the emotional body rather than the logical one.

About the Exhibition:

I use the competition between positive and negative space to form images that do not quickly disclose themselves, but capture attention for the time required to interpret them.

I draw the female body so as to signify identities that have been devoured, depreciated, gutted, and nearly annihilated. I hope viewers find them compelling and revealing their peculiar beauty. My work parallels German expressionism and cave painting. Its correspondence to ancient forms of expression is enhanced by the presence of mythological themes, which function as metaphors.



Hero in Color (2005)
quilted linocut, 8.5 x 9 inches

I chose quilting in combination with printmaking for *The Emotional Body* series to bridge fine arts and the tradition of women's crafts. Historically, at gatherings such as quilting bees, women shared stories and documented their lives through the quilts, as they

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provided coverings for their families and the community. I print my images, whether linocuts or digital, on paper or fabric, and I stitch them together with several layers of different fabrics. I use stitching as a drawing method that communicates. For instance, blood-red sewing machine tracks echo the look of the military tank tracks that invaded my city at the onset of Martial Law in Poland in 1981.

About the Artist:

Elka is a printmaker, book artist, and designer who emigrated from Poland in 1990. She is a fellow of the Polish Ministry of Culture and Art (1987/88). She received an M.F.A. in Graphic Design and an M.A. in Art Education at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. For seven years, she was head of the Illustration Program at the University at Buffalo, NY. She is currently studying for a doctorate in Education at the University of Illinois. Her prints and artist's books are in public collections of the National Library in Warsaw, Poland; the Holocaust Museum at Majdanek, Poland; and the Rare Book Collections of several universities in the US. Artist website: www.elkadesigns.com

EXHIBITIONS AT THE GALLERY THROUGH JUNE 11, 2009:

Group Show: **The Emotional Body** juried by Elzbieta (Elka) Kazmierczak

Group Show: **The Art of Healing** artworks from the Collection of Jean Cozier

Solo Show: **Intimate Distance** by Lily Mayfield

Artisan Gallery: **Whimsicality** juried by Margaret Denny

Woman Made Gallery

685 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Chicago, IL 60642

Website: www.womanmade.org

Gallery Hours: Wed-Fri noon-7 p.m. / Sat-Sun noon-4 p.m. / Admission: Free

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