

Nora Brodnicki

Nora E. Brodnicki

About the Artist:

Nora Brodnicki, a native of West Hartford, who now lives and teaches in Oregon. Nora is an educator and ceramic artist, and teaches Art History & Ceramics at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City. The piece of art displayed at UConn Health, titled "Throne of Control", intend to reference and question the focus of diabetes care which is "control". The images on the throne have been appropriated from historical and contemporary medical publications. The piece is part of a series of works (includes six thrones) created in 1999 to deal with the concepts of health maintenance and control.

The artist explains that the throne is a metaphor for the acceptance and/or denial of our life situations, specifically positions of impaired health. By sitting on the throne, we either accept or control our situation or we allow our "disease" to control us.

Artist's Statement:

"My work describes the body that has fallen out of balance. How does one approach the world when the body, which is an essential part of the self, does not function "normally"? And what does one do when physical control is absent? How does one manage to eat right, exercise and be healthy in addition to all of the other tasks of everyday life? These are questions I ask and work to communicate to the viewer through my work."

Works

- University of Connecticut Health



Item Number: 2057

Title: "Throne of Control"

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Artist's Statement

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In her book, *Illness As Metaphor*, Susan Sontag notes that illness is "the night-side of life" and that "everyone who is born holds dual citizenship in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick." At some point in every person's life the night-side of life controls and contains. Every human body struggles to maintain a healthy existence and avoid illness. But even exercise and careful food consumption can not control certain diseases which attack even the healthiest bodies. Americans are trained to believe that healthy is good and beautiful and disease is ugly and bad. My work attempts to describe this "bad" aspect of human existence.

My interest in the body and physical maintenance has inspired a visual interest in medicine and the history of health and disease. The notion of balancing the body for good physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health has been described in medical texts throughout history. I have appropriated historical and contemporary medical texts and imagery to illustrate human conflict and reconciliation between disease and physical control.

Nora E. Brodnicki
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(503) 233-4957

Education:

- May 1999** MFA, Ceramics. State University of New York, New Paltz, NY.
- May 1996** MA, Art History. Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.
- May 1991** BA, Art History. Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY.

Teaching:

- Fall 1999- present** **Instructor.** Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR.
Art History, Ceramics & Basic Design.
- Spring 1999/1998** **Instructor.** SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, NY.
Ceramics & Freshman Art Seminar.

Exhibitions:

- Spring 2002** **Biennial Outdoor Sculpture Show.** Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR.
- Fall 2001** **Faculty Show.** Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, OR.
- May 1999** **MFA Exhibition.** SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, NY.
- May 1999** **Group Exhibition.** Rob Hite Gallery, Esopus, NY.