Bhakti Ziek Cranbrook Academy of Art, MFA, 1989

Artists are frequently asked to offer a written statement of purpose or intention to accompany their visual work. In *Artist's Statement*, Bhakti Ziek creatively fuses the textile with the statement, narrowing the distance between the two while reflecting on the evolution of her practice. The jacquard loom makes possible the intricate labor of selecting threads one by one to embed the message in the matrix of woven cloth.

Born 1946, New York, New York State University of New York at Stony Brook, BA, 1968 University of Kansas, Lawrence, BFA, 1980 Ziek lives in Cerrillos, New Mexico.

| reast I can look at itand then I know. And I can say, not this. Every not this gets me closer to the yes. What ever that is. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In the mid-86's I was in New York again. While defining myself as a fiber artist, I did a stint in the textile industry. It was another world view of textiles that I had not |
| encountered before, and it was quite mysterious to me. In |
| this world, all my previous taxilla experiences counted as |
| nothing, but of frustration of not understanding, out of |
| curiosity, and just for fund began to go to the F.I.T. Swatch |
| Library. Feverishly I would study old fabrics for their weave structure and design. |
| During graduate school I took the path of narrative. It was a wonderful time. I learned to look at my life, and my |
| personal experiences, and use them in my work. To year |
| gadize from me as the individual to the all-encompassing |
| we. I wove literal imagesnot photo realism but |
| identifiable. The cellist was clearly a cellist. I enjoyed a |
| process of working that I had envied in others. I knew my |
| characters. I told myself elaborate stories as I wove, and I wove more elaborate ones with words afterwards as I |
| looked at the work. I received excellent publicity and found |
| rouself writing and talking about the work, and about |
| nativative work as an art form. I built this neat box. Aut |
| then I realized that I didn't want to work this way any |
| more, that in fact, even as I was writing and talking, my |
| weaving was moving again into an abstract realm. |
| This building of boxes, or identities, and then the Houdini- |
| like movements of extracting myself from these enclosures |
| seems to be part of my padal with learning to temper my |
| words and my enthusiasm. Tirrecognize that I do talk from |
| my heart, from a place of honesty and truthbut to |
| |

Artist's Statement 1994 Cotton, double cloth (jacquard weave)



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Bhakti Ziek

Artists in the Web Exhibition

An expanded Web-based exhibition, representing the work of more than 150 graduates of Cranbrook Academy of Art's Fiber Department, is accessible at www.cranbrookart.edu/hothouse/.

Michael Olszewski

Essays and Contributions by

Glenn Adamson Rebecca Elliot Gerhardt Knodel Jane Lackey Gregory Wittkopp Brian Young

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