

Ornamentvm
Decorative Arts in Canada – Les Art Decoratifs au Canada
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Excerpt from
“New Artists at OCAD” pp 26 – 27

If part of Ornamentvm’s mandate is to explore the creative context and talent through which the creative arts are born, it is important to focus on National Schools or Art and design as sources of creative energy and exploration. Therefore, in addition to regularly surveying the work of established Canadian artists and artisans, we want to give voice and visibility to a new generation of artists. By looking at what they are doing, we gain insights into the current preoccupations of a generation that is about to graduate and put into practice what they have learnt. It may also serve as a starting point from which to track the directions they take. With this article, Ornamentvm opens its pages to a series that will cover the main schools and institutions of art and design across the country. By so doing, we hope certain patterns may come to light such as the emergence of trends, of regional preference or specializations, or even differences in teaching approaches. Five fourth year students of Material Art and Design at the Ontario College of Art and Design talked to our editors about their work and ideas as they complete their studies by preparing a thesis project as the final stage and proof of their technical and creative achievements.

*Pic and detail “Behind Closed Doors”
Cutline for pic on left*

Monica Bodirsky, “Behind Closed Doors. 2007, Dyed silks, heat transfer, newsprint, hand-made paper, buttons, stitching, paint and canvas. 30.5 x 30.5 cm. Photograph: Christine Lim

Cutline for pic on right

Behind Closed Doors, detail

Monica Bodirsky

M.B. I love cloth. I was a professional graphic designer, but wasn’t experiencing the tactile quality I crave in art and design. I use weak acid dyes on various types of silk and hand stitch, use heat transfers , pasgels, paints and several layers to create the images. My pieces are small for two reasons. I feel that they are very personal, almost private statements, and I want people to get up close so they can see the details of the texture.

Eds.

We thought the modular nature and rectangular shape of the piece, along with the layering of the cloth was perhaps an unconscious representation of a book, that is, a

thesis suggesting the narrative of a closed space, within which recurring themes unfold. The ambiguity between images of house and home, memory and experience ,and the paradoxes of protection and peril are explored in a series of 28 similar shapes that form part of a larger grid structure.

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