

Alan Greenberg

Fleisher Art Memorial Challenge Exhibition

Installation Description

As you walk into the sanctuary from the small gallery you will be confronted with a large circle of stone and wood arranged on the floor, surrounded by five icons that live in the Fleisher. Above the circle will be a large wooden beam suspended by cable. The beam also serves as a physical counter-balance for the second element of the installation: a large, wooden rowboat. The rowboat will hang in the sanctuary's alter area.

Concept

The Fleisher Sanctuary is a visually active and emotionally charged space. My goal is not to compete or transform it as I would a neutral gallery space, but to create an installation that will work in harmony with the physical space, as well as to accentuate its spirit.

Symbols

The boat suggests other worldliness and spirituality. The boat is a metaphor of the journey toward our inner souls as well as a vessel to the heavens.

The circle is made up of slate, flagstone, and wood -- elements of the earth that represent the physical world. Early spiritual practices focussed on the elements of the earth, often forged into a circle.

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Iconic statues can become idol-like in their usual settings in religious institutions. Placed around the circle, they become guardians or participants in this earthly ritual.

I believe that there is an interdependence between pure, abstract spirituality and the spirit of the earth. The weight of the wooden beam holds up the boat/spirit, and the boat/spirit is uplifting the earth into a realm of spirituality.

Conclusion

My objective is to raise questions, as opposed to giving answers.

In setting up this balance, I am also challenging our reliance and dependence on the bricks and mortar of our religious institutions as a substitute for spirituality.

Small Gallery

In the small gallery I am planning on putting in three "object" pieces that represent the recent directions of my studio work. All three will be connected to the wall. The materials will include wood, plaster, pigments, and other natural materials.

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