

Documentation: Gate Installation, Work in Progress 1984-85.  
Outdoor Installation at 528 Fitzwater, Phila., Pa.

This environmental sculpture is a work in progress. I began the drawings and ceramic tiles in May, 1984. The fact that I have been independently building, weatherproofing, and financing the sculpture has stretched the project to nine months. Upon its completion, it will temporarily be installed in the rotunda of the old U.S. Mint, now the Philadelphia Community College, at 17th and Spring Garden. It will then be installed outside of my home at 528 Fitzwater.

The gate is an example of my continuing interest in creating sculpture that encourages the viewer to participate. It is an abbreviated piece of architecture with a roof, walls and door that act more symbolically than functionally. The dimensions of 78" x 85" x 18" relate on a human scale. Upon entering the viewer is embraced by his surroundings. Inside the ceiling of the arch, above the viewer's head are six ceramic heads looking back at him. It is ambiguous whether these heads are prominent characters in a narrative or are mimicking the spectator. On the two panels on either side of the door are images of betrayal, war, hope and guidance. These props and scenarios are all familiar, but like a mystery plot, they act more like clues than a sequential narrative. The door is dwarfed at 24" x 42", and upon leaving the adult viewer must crouch down. The scale refers to a child's world or an Alice in Wonderland passage.