

Aspen Art Museum
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Educator Notes



Installation view: Lutz Bacher, 2014. Photo: Tony Prikryl

Lutz Bacher

October 22, 2014–January 25, 2015

About the artist

Lutz Bacher is an artist who currently lives and works in New York City, but is also closely associated with the Bay Area, where she had previously worked since the 1970s. Bacher works across various media and often draws on found images and/or objects as well as popular culture. Bacher, whose name is a pseudonym, could be described as elusive, much like the intimate yet distant subject matter of her work.



Lutz Bacher, *How Will I Find You*, 2014 (detail). Photo: Tony Prikryl

About the exhibition

For her exhibition at the Aspen Art Museum, Bacher presents *Knots*, a series of twenty-nine drawings recently uncovered from her archive—originally produced during a visit to Aspen in June of 2010. Bacher created abstract figures by drawing mostly uninterrupted lines into groupings of tangled shapes upon a blank white page. Although each “knot” is unique, there are visual connections or patterns that can be made across these twenty-nine drawings.

In addition, the exhibition includes her newly created installation *How Will I Find You*, a monumental pile of white plaster fragments displayed in the middle of the gallery. These fragments were found by the artist at a tractor-trailer company in New Jersey, and are both the hollowed-out

negatives of molds along with the positive forms of casts. Many of these pieces are incomplete or broken, causing us to wonder about their originally intended purpose.

There are certain similarities and differences that can be observed between these two works. Although *How Will I Find You* is comprised of found objects and *Knots* is made entirely by the artist’s hand, both were conceived with some relationship to Aspen as they feature a prominent use of white, either in the material presence of plaster or the negative space of the page. And despite a great difference in scale between the smallness of the drawings and largeness of the installation, both works struggle with the heaviness of chaos.



Lutz Bacher, *Knots*, 2014 (details). Photo: Tony Prikrýl

Questions for discussion

- | What kind of emotions do the knots create? Create a list of adjectives that students feel when looking at these drawings.
- | Why do you think the artist was interested in gathering the plaster pieces of *How Will I Find You*? What does the title mean? Who do you think “you” is?
- | Why do you think the artist arranged the plaster pieces in *How Will I Find You* in this way? What else could be piled together to create a similar effect? How else could she have arranged the pieces to create a different effect?

Suggested activities

Take a line for a walk

- | Have students create continuous line drawings on similar sizes of white paper, using either pencil or pen.
- | See how many emotions can be expressed through these simple line drawings. Reading a story or playing various types of music while students draw might also stimulate emotions.
- | Have students pick a drawing that they are particularly proud of, and repeat this form in different media, such as pastel, paint, or even clay sculpture.

Positive/Negative found objects

- | Have students explore the different uses of plaster by creating both casts and molds.
- | First, invite students to choose objects that are either familiar from home or found on the street or in a thrift store.
- | Next, create the negative space of a mold by layering plaster strips over an object and removing the object when the mold is dry.
- | Also, create positive plaster sculpture casts by first covering the object in an air-dry clay or wax material, and then layer the plaster to create a positive image of the original object.
- | Invite students to assemble the group’s molds and casts into a collective installation.

For more information, please contact the Education Department at 970.925.8050 ext. 133 or email education@aspenartmuseum.org.

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