

in The Cleve E. Carney Gallery

Gallery 3

January 7 -
March 11
2007

RESPOND!

In the RESPOND! Series, the Art Center asks visitors to tell us what they think about the work in the exhibition:

*My first impulse
was to take a deep breath
as if I was inhaling something powerful.
The earth tone objects dressed in layers of clay and color.
This is a creative voice I would love to talk to and work with.*

Marva Jolly

Artist Education

Chicago State University

Marking the Body

Work by Angela Lee



Angela Lee
(from left to right):

Butterfly Torso

2006

Grey stoneware, Mississippi and multi-color slips
10 x 8³/₄ x 6 inches

Scarified Torso I

2005

Brown stoneware, Mississippi slip and acrylic paint
12 x 12 x 7 inches

Hyde Park ARTCENTER

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions, primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by the Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust, a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly; The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; The Lucius and Eva Eastman Foundation; The Field Foundation of Illinois; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; Kraft Foods; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The National Endowment for the Arts; The Orbit Fund; The Playboy Foundation; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Terra Foundation for American Art; and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; and the generosity of its members and friends.

The paintings and ceramic sculptures in *Marking the Body* explore how the forms, textures and patterns of body modifications have the ability to invoke reverence or revulsion. Often, Lee uses a compilation of oxide stains, colored clay slips, Mississippi red dirt, and paints such as acrylic and casein paint (a water-based medium made from milk first used by Egyptians for the longevity of its pigment) on fired stoneware to achieve unique textures and colors. These techniques capture the colors and shapes of body modification—elements that fade, distort and decay with age—in a static state and allow for contemplation that is detracted from the sometimes unnerving canvas of human skin.

Throughout human history and all over the world, the body has served as a canvas for human expression. People from every society and culture on earth have chosen at one time or another to bind, brand, burn, beat, cinch, dye, implant, paint, pierce, tattoo or scar their own bodies, or the bodies of others. The rationale for such modifications have ranged from beautification, creative expression, sport, spiritual protection and initiatory rites, to differentiation, social identification and, when people are considered property, proof of ownership.

Marking the Body is an initial artistic glimpse at two categories of body modification: deliberate, self-conscious alterations of the body, and modifications imposed by life and its events.

Body modification practices evolved within specific geographic, social and cultural contexts in which their meaning was recognized and understood. With the development of industry, technology and increased globalization, these practices and their meanings have been adapted, incorporated and sometimes lost in a global context and are known as 'body art', 'style' or 'fashion'.

Angela Lee

Angela Lee received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Chicago and a Master of Fine Arts in Film & Photography from New York University. She has worked as a performing artist, film producer and arts administrator in the US and Canada. Having studied ceramics and abstract painting at the Hyde Park Art Center for several years, Lee now presents her new work publicly in *Marking the Body*, her first solo exhibition.

This project is supported by a Community Arts Assistance Program grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.



Angela Lee

(from left to right):

Blue Incised Hand

2006

Brown stoneware and glazes

7 x 5 x 2¼ inches

The Blue Hand

2006

Grey stoneware, acrylic paint, color slips and glazes

7½ x 4½ x 1¾ inches

Henna Hand

2006