MOMENT TO MOMENT

A thesis submitted to the College of the Arts of Kent State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts

by

Kyoko Matsuyama

August, 2013
Thesis written by

Kyoko Matsuyama

LL.B., Kanazawa University, 1995

M.F.A., Kent State University, 2013

Approved by

______________________
M. Sean Mercer, M.F.A., Advisor

______________________
Christine Havice, Ph.D. Director, School of Art

______________________
John R. Crawford, Ed.D., Dean, College of the Arts
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOMENT TO MOMENT</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>See My Thoughts ................................................................. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>See My Thoughts ........................................................................ 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>See My Thoughts – detail 1 .......................................................... 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>See My Thoughts – detail 2 .......................................................... 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>See My Thoughts – detail 3 .......................................................... 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Be Free ........................................................................................ 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Be Free ........................................................................................ 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Be Free – detail 1 ......................................................................... 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Transition .................................................................................... 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Transition ..................................................................................... 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Transition – detail ....................................................................... 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank my family who has supported me from Japan. I would like to thank the faculty in the School of Arts who has stayed with me with various experiences, knowledge and patience, especially my advisor. I would like to thank all my friends who have helped me and encouraged me for this achievement.
MOMENT TO MOMENT

People live with many thoughts that go through their minds day to day, hours to hours, second to second and moment to moment. Those thoughts have very important roles and significantly influence how people see their lives. In other words, people can view their past by selecting thoughts and memories that are consistent with their own “truth.” People can also choose what kind of future they will have according to the thoughts and beliefs they choose to focus on moment to moment. As a student of Master of Fine Arts with a concentration in glass, I have chosen to create art with a focus on the many thoughts that people experience moment to moment.

People may not realize how much their thoughts impact them from moment to moment. These thoughts are often unconscious and influence how we live our lives. For example, if someone has experienced a harsh or difficult time in their lives, especially in their childhood, they may likely reflect on their past and see things in a negative way. However, if someone has had a very positive and healthy past, they may likely experience thoughts that influence their lives in a positive way day to day and moment to moment.

Think about how people respond differently based on what thoughts they have in their own heads. One person may feel bad if a friend says that they cannot engage in a social activity because they are busy – like when they ask a friend to go along to watch a movie. These individuals may have negative thoughts and feel rejected as a friend and then harbor sadness that negatively influences their life. On the other hand, another individual with positive thoughts may
just think the friend is too busy to have time to go to the movies. Therefore, they can proceed through life feeling positive. Another example is when a person makes a mistake at work. Some people may think that they made a mistake because they are not good enough and believe that they will never be able to do things correctly. Contrary to this, another person may think that making a mistake is a good way of learning and feel confident that they will do a better job next time.

If people knew that their future was based on what thoughts they carried around in their heads, moment to moment and day in and day out they would be very cautious and purposeful about what they thought. In other words, if they were more conscious of what they were thinking, they might actually choose better thoughts to create their own future consciously. They could recognize their negative thoughts, deliberately change them to positive thoughts and then create a better outcome for themselves. Unfortunately, we live our lives in such a fast paced way, that we do not take the time to really pay attention to our many thoughts and how they influence our lives moment to moment. Moreover, it may be difficult to catch each thought because thoughts are continuous, changing and flow through people’s minds like a river. However, if people could slow down, pay attention and focus on their thoughts at a moment, they could be more insightful and purposeful about how they are living their lives.

It was the objective of my M.F.A. Exhibition, “Moment to Moment,” to capture a moment of a person’s thoughts and display it artistically, so that they can examine them and determine how their thoughts are influencing the direction in their lives. My art pieces in the exhibition showed a moment in continuity. People never stop thinking until death, whether it is conscious or not. In order to place my concept into art works, my pieces needed to have sequence of time.
Even though my art work visually describes just a moment, it is meant to suggest that the viewer consider that there is a past and future. When people see my art and think about the meaning, their thoughts and interpretation of it are based on their own lives and experiences. Consequently, my art may help the viewer to uncover their approach to life. I created glass art that expressed “a moment” with a past and future, so people might see how each moment of their thoughts had influenced their lives and their future.

The glass sculpture “See My Thoughts” (Figs. 1 – 5) had seven solid glass pieces on the wall that were displayed in a wavy line. Each glass piece had a similar shape and a square hole into which a steel square tube was stuck. The steel tubes were created to look as though they were both coming out of or going into the glass pieces. Inside the clear glass I created yellow spiral lines that looked like ripples to depict movement and energy suggesting “something is happening here.” The objects were then put on pedestals made of steel sheets, which were painted black in order for the delicate color of the glass to stand out.

This art work was created to express “a moment” in time but a moment with different possibilities. Each glass piece had a similar shape, but they were not same. This art suggested that each moment was a result of the previous moment and that if people had had different thoughts at a previous moment, then they would have different thoughts at a given moment. The art as a whole displayed a moment in time and each glass piece showed each possibility. Each moment has the possibilities of a situation with the same person at the same place, but that person is standing on one of them at the present because they have chosen it through their thoughts. If people knew there were other possibilities, they might wonder why they chose that one place or one possibility. They might question if they liked it, or if they were really where they wanted to be. If they did not like that place, they could choose another possibility at the next
moment with a different thought. People do not have to be stuck in one situation because the next moment always comes one after another.

“Be Free” (Figs. 6 – 8) consisted of thirteen purple glass pieces and a piece of black steel making a line of a square on the wall. These glass pieces were of various sizes, and most of them were displayed inside of the steel square. The square had an opening on the right top corner, and a couple of glass pieces were hung outside of the square as if they were escaping from it. Therefore, the steel square could be considered as a cage. The purple glass pieces outside of the square were created with a little part of red color on the edge to suggest that they were gaining energy to fly away. The title “Be Free” was chosen to help the viewer to understand the meaning of this art work.

My purpose in this art piece was to show the viewer that a person could change their perspective of their past. Sometimes people are stuck in the past, and it is hard for them to have hope for the future. Although facts cannot be changed, if a person changes their thoughts, they might have different feelings about the past. People can be free from the past by releasing each negative thought from the past and by choosing thoughts which are preferable. Because the past is over, they do not have to live there, can choose to live at the moment, and take responsibility for their lives. If people have negative thoughts (the glass pieces) in a past (the steel square), they can choose to examine each of them, reinterpret them and release them. They could then choose other thoughts which are more helpful, supportive and inspiring.

The last work, “Transition,” (Figs. 9 - 11) had more action than other two. Seven green glass pieces on the wall were displayed with a movement from left to right. At the very left side, there was a piece of black steel making lines looking like a smiling mouth. The steel piece could be considered the starting point for the glass pieces because the glass that attached to the steel
was cut by the line. I created this piece so that it appeared as though the glass pieces were coming out of the steel. In addition, because the line had a curve, the glass pieces looked like they were bouncing with energy. This sculpture displayed a transition as a whole. The transition could be observed from left to right as the color changed from dark green to yellow, then to orange and red. The size of glass pieces also increased.

“Transition” conveyed that each moment was connecting to the future and that each moment was important in order to create a future. As one’s present thoughts are based on the past thoughts, thoughts at a given moment build a direction for the future. People can create their own future by choosing thoughts, so people need to check the direction of their thoughts. A thought may be small at the beginning but grows with time. If people examine their thoughts as soon as they come to their awareness, it is easier for them to fix the direction. This is important because thoughts sometimes can become larger or more negative over time if you are not consciousness of them. They may also become more exaggerated and negative if you do not understand the core of your thoughts.

These three Art works utilized glass pieces that had a common shape. I chose to use this common shape to represent the many thoughts that people had moment to moment. In addition, the art displayed that people had many kinds of thoughts at different moments, so the shape needed to have some consistency but still have variety and flexibility as indicated by the varying colors and orientations. For these reasons, I designed the overall shape of the glass pieces with a curve which did not have any rigidity. Moreover, to show variety, I decided that glass was a good material to create shapes in different sizes and color. A few visitors to my exhibition actually commented that they imagined the glass shapes to be “thought bubbles” that people saw in
cartoons. So I could say that I have successfully communicated some of the meaning of my art to others.

In conclusion, to express my ideas through art, I created works with multiple pieces although my previous style before this master program was to create single solid pieces. Through the process of creating “Moment to Moment”, I have learned to utilize space among and around glass and steel pieces to create my art. As I was creating my sculptures, I thought about how each piece related to the others and how far the art would continue spatially even beyond objects. I also realized that it was very important to plan how to display my art works even before making them because a small change could have changed the whole impact of my art.

This M.F.A. Exhibition was a valuable learning opportunity for me. Using multiple pieces in a sculpture and being purposeful in how I used the space on a wall brought me to a new stage in my art career. It allowed me to break the previous limitations of my expression. I now realize that using of multiple pieces and space is a technique that has lots of possibilities. It was especially interesting to me to display art pieces set free from pedestals and instead use the space as an integral part of the presentation. Since I had many ideas and patterns to display with multiple pieces, I needed to develop my concept over and over in order to make a final decision. I realized again that having a solid concept was very important when making art to place the idea into the art. This experience in creating “Moment to Moment” will be one which I will treasure in a future as I to continue my study of art.
Figure 1

*See My Thoughts*

Kiln-cast glass and Steel
H2.5 x W10 x D0.7 feet
2013

Figure 2

*See My Thoughts*
Figure 3

*See My Thoughts*, detail 1

Figure 4

*See My Thoughts*, detail 2
Figure 5

See My Thoughts, detail 3
Figure 6

Be Free

Kiln-cast glass and Steel
H3 x W3.5 x D0.23 feet
2013
Figure 7

*Be Free*

Figure 8

*Be Free, detail*
Figure 9

*Transition*

Kiln-cast glass and Steel
H4 x W8.5 x D0.23 feet
2013
Figure 10

*Transition*

Figure 11

*Transition, detail*