

Monika Napier

some notes on “Power Cord Series”, 2003

My first Saskatchewan winter began in the fall of 2000. One tends to remember first impressions: air so cold and dry it sparkles, people going to work in the morning in total darkness, nonchalantly. But my most vivid memory is of all the extension cords: colourful, cartoon-like umbilical cords, attaching cars to houses and to the more institutional grids of parking lots.

Now, almost three years later, this imagery seems to have found its way into my work: my current body of work involves sculptural forms using extension cords as the dominant material. I am working on an extensive series of such forms. The resulting collection can then be installed in any number of interconnecting configurations, groupings and/or contexts. Like the White Cube Series preceding it, this work continues to explore issues of relationality. But where the cubes invoke intimacy and reciprocity, the extension-cord pieces are more concerned with such pairings as dependence & independence, distance & proximity, inside & outside. They also deal, quite literally, with power and location. With this work I seem to be exploring interconnectedness in a more public, social way.

In much of my work, I look for meaning in how things connect, both literally and figuratively: how does one thing lead to another?; what constitutes wholeness?; is there safety in numbers? Although this work centres on the production of objects, it is ultimately concerned with the dynamics of relationship. I hope to create visual and physical metaphors for aspects of human relationship - whether between individuals, institutions, or other constituencies.

a 50-ish word bio

Monika Napier is a visual artist who works primarily in sculpture and installation. She is originally from Montreal. She came to Saskatoon the long way: via Vancouver and Halifax. She holds degrees from Concordia University (BFA '88), Emily Carr College of Art & Design (Diploma '92) and the Nova Scotia College of Art & Design (MFA, '98). She has exhibited her work nationally and internationally for the past ten years, and has taught studio art and seminar courses at NSCAD and U. of S.