

Merryl Berner Cicourel

Merryl Berner Cicourel:
Retrospectively Reimagining Cultural Landscapes
August 13 – October 8, 2017



Ceremonial Landscape I with preliminary drawings



Butler Institute of American Art
Trumbull Branch
9350 East Market Street
Howland Township, OH 44484



Spatial Considerations II Preliminary Drawing

My work draws upon a strong commitment to folk and contemporary art. The images I work with evolve from personal experiences, including observations of a broad range of landscapes and sacred settings that exist in various cultural traditions. Local ecological forms have become the genre for the subjective landscapes that are transformed into visual narratives. Certain types of imagery are a focus of attention; for example, geological forms as they exist in nature or have been manipulated and fashioned by a human hand.



A View of the Garden



Colorground



Painted Paper Collage: II



Raiments of the Land

I increasingly became aware of my enthusiasm for materials, textures, and color while working with ceramics as a teenager and later as a professional ceramicist.

I painted on handmade clay forms using studio glazes (colors) and formulas that I and others created. These in their dry state were not representative of the final color that would appear on a finished piece.

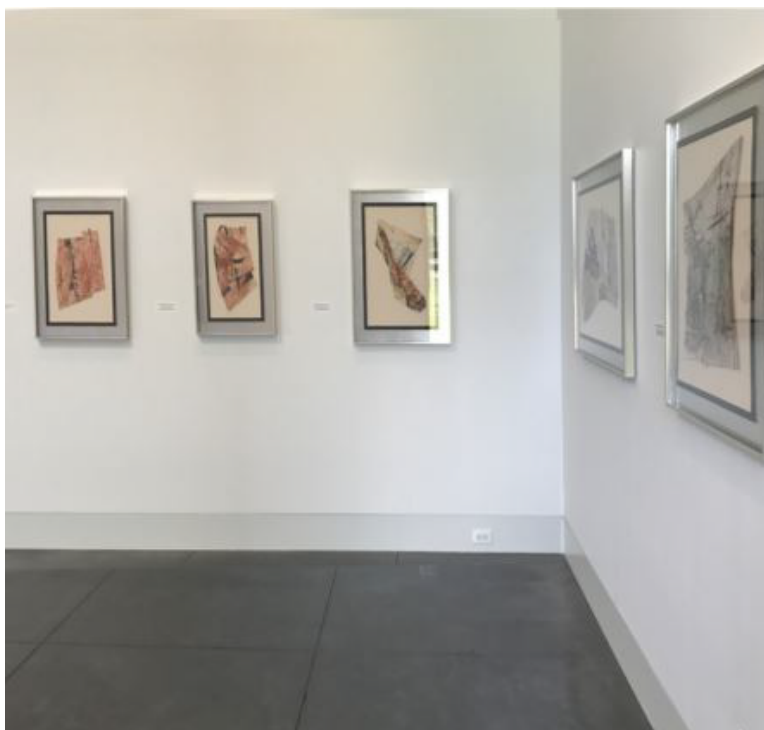
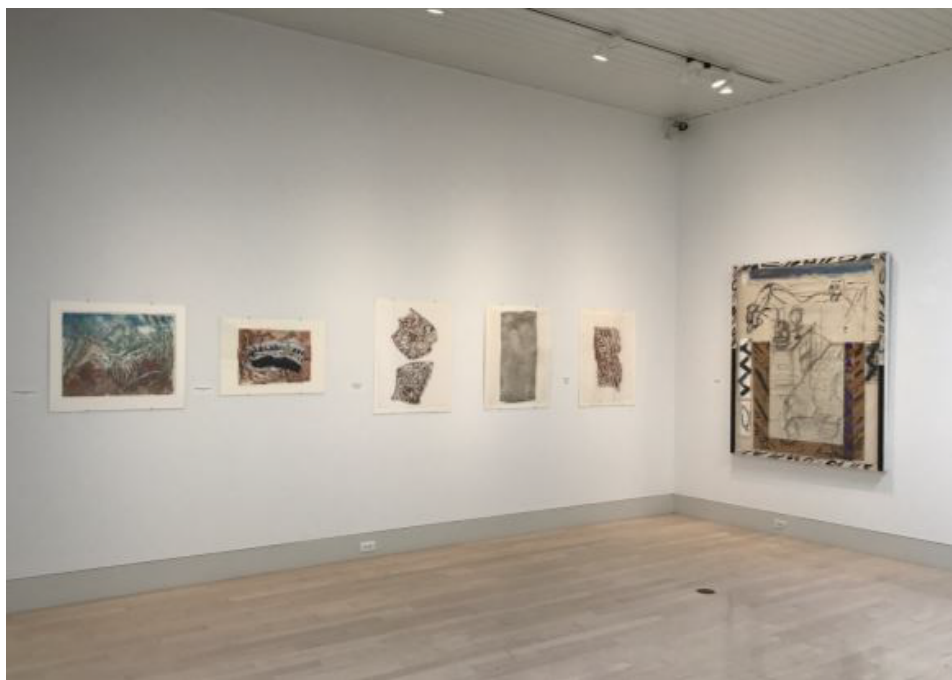
Much time and angst occurred because I would create designs while visualizing mentally the colors knowing that the kiln was the final arbiter.

This was an incredible learning process for me which, ultimately, played into my decision to earn a Master's Degree in Fine Arts that set me on the path that has evolved into the art you see today.

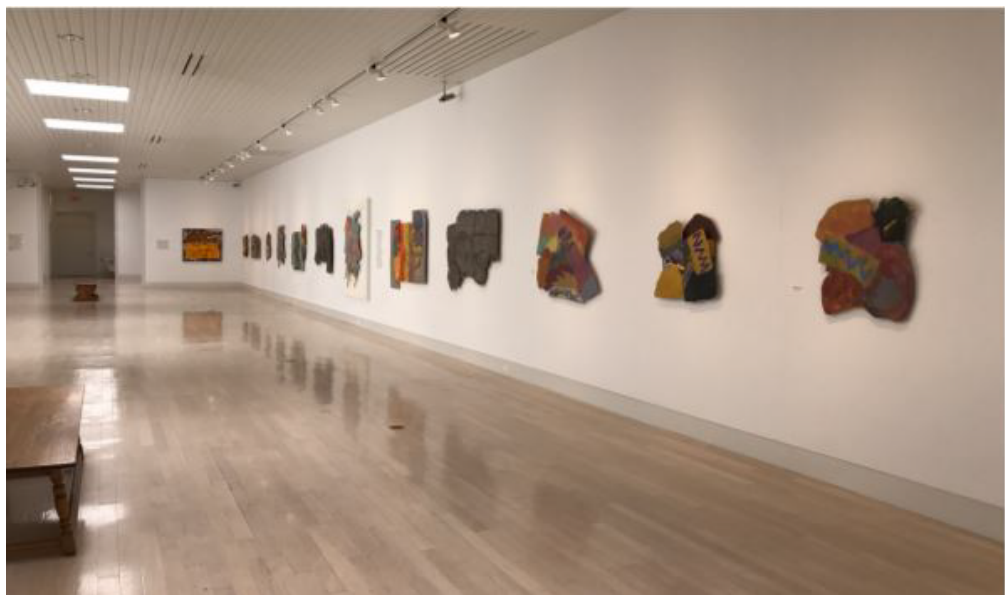
Merryl Berner Cicourel



Raiments of the Land Preliminary Drawing III









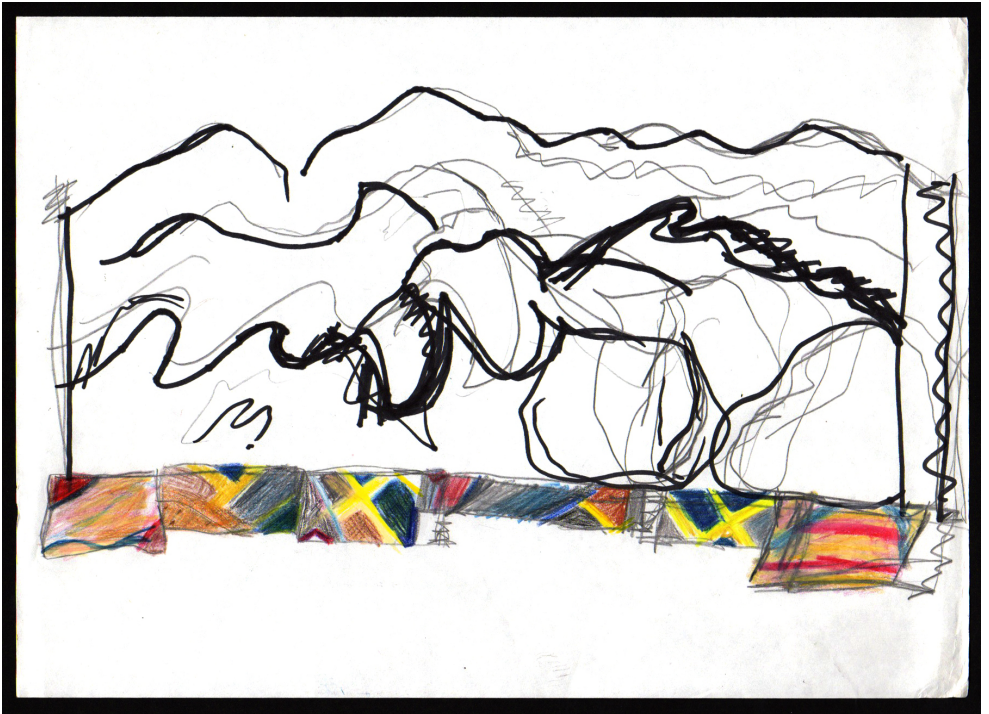


A VisibleTrace

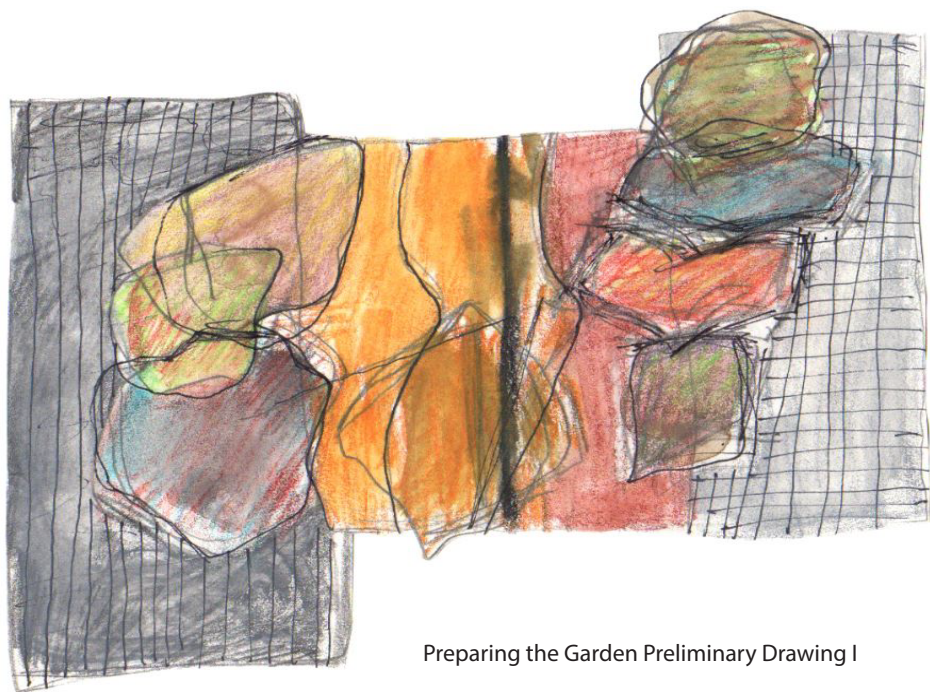
The work of California artist, Merryl Berner Cicourel, is both highly inventive and beautifully accomplished. She is blessed with a remarkable ability to achieve what Rauschenberg devoted his life to...being able to identify strongly with his materials and to understand their unique personalities. Cicourel's work reminds us of the fact that really great artists meet the challenge which every work presents. This exhibition is clearly a celebration of creativity and the documentation of an amazing artistic journey. The Butler Institute of American Art is indeed honored to host it.

We are exceedingly grateful to our good friend Bill Mullane for organizing the exhibition and to Rita Bottoms for her good work in helping to make the exhibit possible. But mostly we are thankful to Merryl Berner Cicourel for her extraordinary talent in creating works of art which both entertain and inspire.

Louis A. Zona
Director
The Butler Institute of American Art



Aluminum Wall Sculpture Series A : VI Preliminary Drawing I



Preparing the Garden Preliminary Drawing I

Merryl Berner Cicourel's art is both complex and refreshingly accessible. In this exhibition, drawings and studies presented alongside larger pieces allow the viewer to share in her creative thought process and see how works emerge, change and come to fruition. There are stand-alone drawings, prints and collages that demonstrate the impact that natural phenomena have had on her art. The landscape and important spaces serve as the basis for Merryl's imagery. The works are fluid and lyrical. Shapes, colors and marks emerge and then are repeated over time providing for continuity between different series of works.

I first met and worked with Merryl more than twenty years ago. It has been a joy to revisit her work while putting together this exhibition. Thank you to the Butler Institute of American Art. It is always a professional and personal pleasure to work at the Butler. Thank you to Lou Zona for his support and friendship over the past three decades. The Butler's staff is professional and wonderful to work with. Thank you to Zachary Repphun, Susan Carfano, Ed Hallahan, Wendy Swick, Rebecca Davis and Tom Hazen for their patience, support and professionalism throughout the exhibition process. The Mahoning Valley is a better place because the Butler Institute of American Art is in it.

William Mullane
Guest Curator
Gallery Director Trumbull Art Gallery



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The Butler Institute

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