



detail from "Requiem for a Friend"

Uplift

- a joyful visual exploration of the Requiem mass.
from the Music Room Series.

Fabric Collage by

William C.G. Hodge

Friday September 10th to October 2, 2010,
10 am to 4 pm Tuesday to Saturday

My exhibition opens in conjunction with the Fibrefest, September 11, and 12 and then continues until October 2. For further information please see the Museums website at textilemuseum.mississippimills.com

UPLIFT

Uplift is a celebration of a musical form that has inspired me for most of my life. As a young person, I discovered Choral Concert on CBC radio. Frequently, the work played would be a Requiem. I found that I was very moved by these auditory celebrations of something lost, most frequently a particular person. At that time, I thought I was a bit morbid, but I was greatly moved by the music and the soaring voices. As time went on I was introduced to many different cultural influences. I was so surprised to find cultures that celebrate death and the deceased. For me it started to all come together.

A particularly strong influence has been the attitude to the deceased in Mexico. There they have an annual celebration for those who have passed. This celebration includes a party in the graveyard. I was surprised to find out that it is good to leave some party refuse at the gravesite, as this was proof that the family had been there.

Personally, I do believe that there something after this existence. I don't know what, but there is something.

For a number of years we were involved with a contemporary orchestra in Toronto. One of the activities was a pre-concert talk, where the composers would talk about the new music that we would hear at the concert. It was exciting to hear the composers use the same design language to describe their music, as I would use for any work of visual art. As they spoke of rhythm, colour, texture, etc. it made me want to use those words as an intermediary between the music I loved and my visual ideas.

All of these influences have come together in this group of works in particular and my Music Room Series in general.

Particular Requiem Masses by Hector Berlioz, Zbigniew Preisner, and Giuseppe Verdi inspired the three larger works. Reading the text of the mass and particular elements from many favorite Requiem Masses inspires the other works. Some of the other composers who have influenced the concepts in my work include Andrew Lloyd Weber, Karl Jenkins, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and John Rutter, to name a few.

MUSIC ROOM SERIES

This is an ongoing series of works inspired by musical forms that have had an important place in my life. I have already done works on contemporary Canadian classical style works, and there will be more of those plus works based on opera, Broadway, world music and popular singers.