



PILCHUCK GODDESSES 1984

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Editing assistance Claudia Kim

Design Wolff studio Knut Stahle

Summer workshop 1984

On the lower level of the Pilchuck lodge underneath the kitchen, a special class was held by Ann Wolff.





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I was fascinated by Erich Neumann's book 'The Great Mother; an Analyses of the Archetype'. In the summer of '84, I went to Pilchuck with some cans of fingerpaint in my suitcase to work with a group of female students with body painting. I had no idea what the outcome would be.



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The group started with some exercises with the body in focus. What about removing- not showing the faces? The students decided to put paper shopping bags over their heads and all of them started to paint each other. This experience was as exciting for me as for my students.

What the young females actually found was the real meaning in surface decoration in relation with their identity – the work as an extension of the 'self'.

Excitement and joy grew as the students enthusiastically started painting each other. They didn't feel naked any more. The exercise helped the group build a strong sense of unity.

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I felt a flow, a strong energy emerge in the group. Watching this happen, I decided to formulate a task.









The task: Goddesses

Ann asked her group to imagine and draw themselves as life size goddesses – what would she look like, who was she? Included in this image should be a vessel of their making. She then helped them make their vision come true.

The work should be displayed as 'GODDESSES' – an exhibition at the tiny school gallery.

At the end of the session, the students took up their positions on plinths like Neuman's goddesses of antiquity, holding their vessels in their hands - the symbol of strong femininity. The result was dazzling.



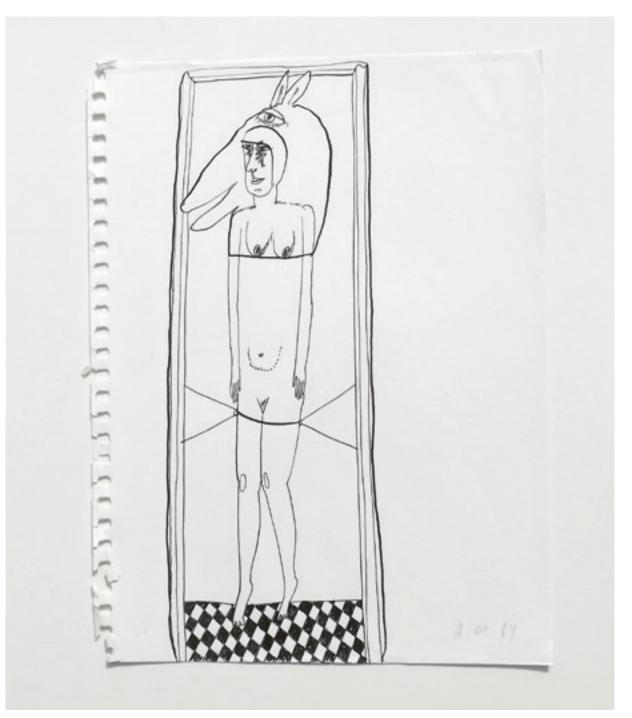
After the Goddess workshop, Ann travelled to her friend and glass artist Harvey Littleton in North Carolina who was setting up a glass printshop to help him install an etching facility for the use of glass plates.

Inspired by the Pilchuck workshop, Ann produced a body of drawings and prints that echoed her experience.

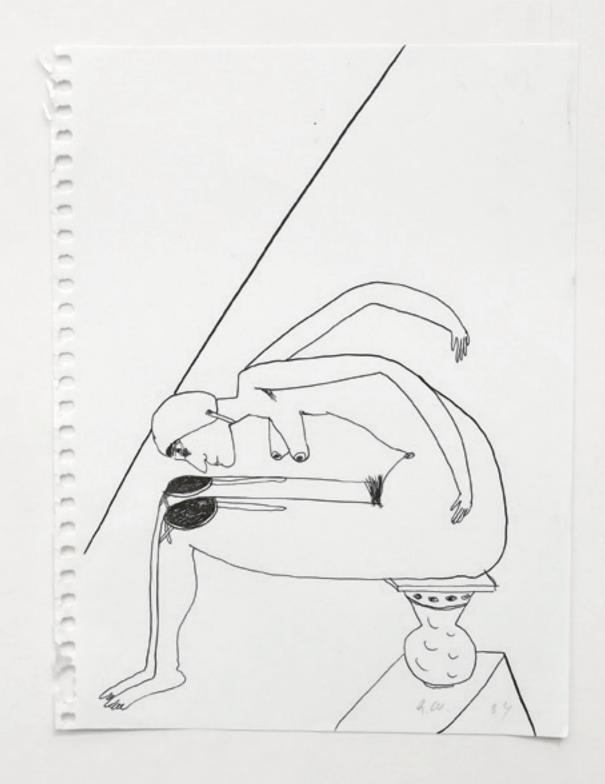


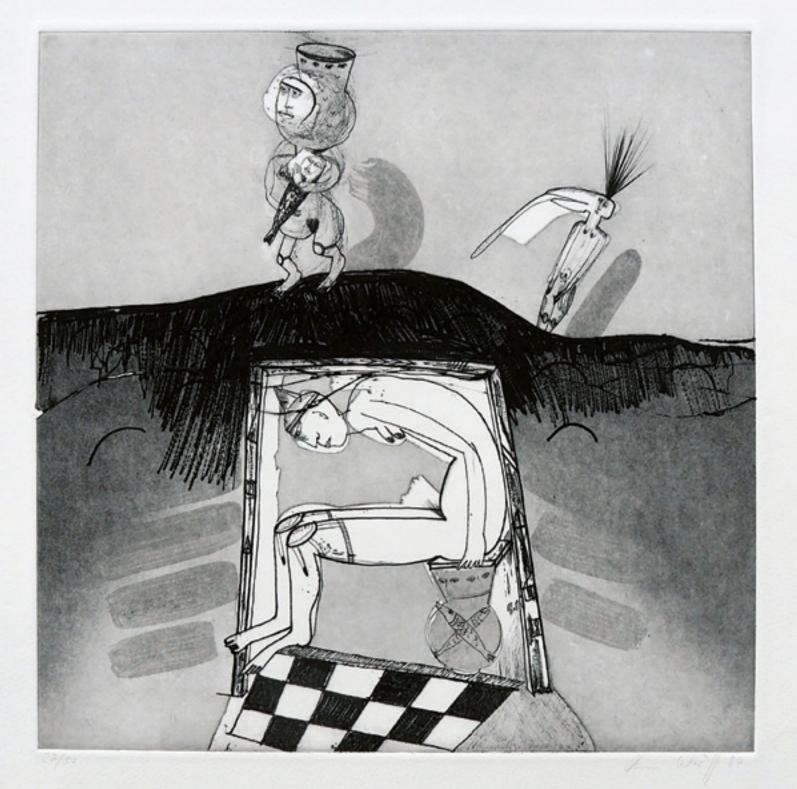












1984 GODDESS and VESSEL 40 x 40 cm print from glassplate

1984 Goddesses at Pilchuck

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Resources

Analog & Digital

Digital version of quotes by Ann Wolff EXPERIMENTS http://awfg.se/ann-wolff/quotes//allehandaexperiment Issaias, Heike. *Ann Wolff*, Raster Förlag, 2002 Pilchuck Glass School www.pilchuck.com Oldknow, Tina. *Pilchuck: A Glass School*, University of Washington Press, 1996.

https://americanart.si.edu/artist/harvey-k-littleton-2961 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich_Neumann_(psychologist) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Great_Mother

Curriculum Vitae http://awfg.se/ann-wolff/



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