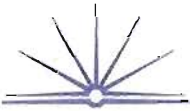


Art communicates with the audience through a system of signs and symbols in ~~many~~ a myriad of ways. It is through the use of such signs and symbols that the work's meaning is able to be communicated to the viewer. Artists such as ~~Bergelt and~~ Marion Bergelt and Frida Kahlo are examples of such artists who use an array of signs and symbols to communicate meaning to their audience. However, there are limitations to such a view of art, lying in the fact that such symbols can be interpreted in different ways from person to person, and often the true meaning ^{of the work} ~~is~~ is lost.

Marion Bergelt claims there is an "importance of symbols in my work". Cycles of nature are formative to her work,

as she is concerned with the metaphysics of change. The strict symmetry and gleaming rich colour seen in 'Anima/animus' 1994 at first appear as abstraction, yet meaning unfolds as the viewer explores the symbolic imagery and painterly surface. Like many of her works, dense textural surfaces are incorporated to incise the many levels and faces of nature and change. The layering alludes to layers of insight.

~~The~~ Bergelt's 1989 ^{work} ~~piece~~ 'Fire, wind and water' is not a literal representation of the land, but after delving into the underlying patterns and textures, one finds the structure of the matter, the essence of nature. Bergelt is concerned with depicting the essence of nature through her techniques, and this is further seen in 'Primordial one' 1997.



Celtic influence is obvious in her geometric shapes, resembling cells dividing after conception. The pattern seems to grow and change without boundaries, eventually leading into a circle. This is a symbol for eternity, and conveys Borgelt's thoughts that life is a continuum of the same pattern of birth/life/death.

Borgelt claims that she is "very keen on the power of design, nature restructured as a design element as communicators of messages and meanings." However there are limitations to this view of art, seen in that as Borgelt employs no symbols of obvious meaning, ~~one~~ one may not ever ^{receive} ~~receive~~ her desired message.

Mexican artist Frida Kahlo's self-portraits explore her ego ~~is~~ expressed in social, political and emotional terms. The argument that

Kahlo's works emerged directly from a need to ~~release~~ release her pain and suffering, obscure her sophisticated assimilation of visual stimuli.

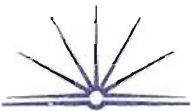
In Kahlo's 'Self-portrait with Thorn necklace and dead hummingbird' 1940, symbols various sources such as Christian, Aztec, European and Mexican, all converge. The thorn necklace around her neck alludes to Christ's suffering, but also draws from her Mexican heritage, of the traditional Aztec ritual of self-mockification with thorns. It could also be interpreted to symbolize her suffering from the waist down due to various accidents, which is reinforced by many of her works such as the Broken Column.

The dead hummingbird and butterfly are Aztec symbols that signal the

souls of dead warriors, and the cat is a generalised symbol for death, imparting an ominous sense of doom. Fertility symbols such as the parrot, fruit and flowers abound in many of her works.

J. Lowe stated that "she transformed her life experiences through a personal symbolism." ~~whereas~~ Kahlo confides that she "painted (her) own reality"; this signals she did not solely rely on her biography as a source for inspiration for her work, but she constructed herself within the work. This further credits her sophisticated and discriminative choice of personal symbolism to communicate with the audience.

The personal symbolism, although, may obstruct the true meaning she is trying to convey, as ~~the~~ Kahlo



incorporated symbols meaningful to her in her expression, but may put limitations on an audience's interpretation of the meaning she is trying to communicate.

Various techniques such as patterns, shapes, and iconic imagery and ~~personal symbolism~~ ^{personal symbolism} are used by the artist. Bergelt and Kahlo respectively to communicate meaning with the audience. Such techniques are used and manipulated by the artist, but may limit the true message the artist is trying to convey. Often, just shapes and patterns, and moreover; personal symbolism ~~can~~ and their meaning can be misconstrued, and this ~~limits~~ the ability for the artist's signs and symbols to communicate with the audience.