



Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

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30 July 1987

Ms. Elaine Wittman  
Assistant Director  
Spaces  
1804 North Van Ness  
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Dear Ms. Witt:

I apologize for the appalling delay in responding to your letter of last September regarding Mr. Rice's crosses. I have very little to add to Liza Kerwin's report to you. The material you seem to describe in your letter (the zeroxes) is most likely some that Mr. Rice compiled and he gives out via little mailboxes on the site. He gives out printed sermons, tracts and those zerox collages on occasion.

He is a very unusual person, as you will have gathered. I have talked with him only once and the conversation was somewhat disjointed (he went on for quite a while about his daughter's "cancer" and how her conversion at the 11th hour had saved her life, etc...) One interesting aspect of his work (and one I could garner little info on from him in conversation) is the numerology which is evident in the printing done on the crosses. The numbers have meaning for him, either with regard to Biblical citations or as personal references to periods of time (days until the end of the world and that sort of thing).

I try to go out periodically and photograph the site to document changes, mostly additions. One reason I am so long in responding is that I had just done that in April of last year and so was going to wait until December to do it again. At this point I thought I should at least get back to you... I am fairly swamped at this time and will have to make a real effort to get out there. When I do however, I will send you copies of slides if you want them.

To cover your final questions... no, I don't believe he has ever been included in any museum shows. (The work would not translate at all in my own opinion.) Photographs of his work by a Washington photographer, Perry Letson, have been shown here. (Brochure enclosed.) I also send of copy of the Birmingham News article to which I believe you are referring.

Sorry to be so long... best wishes,



Margaret Lynne Ausfeld  
Curator

P.S. We did have Robert Hughes (Time art critic) here about a year and a half ago... I took him out there and he was obviously taken off guard ( you can imagine the culture shock... talk about shock of the new!). In any case his term was "bloody marvelous."