

ENVELOPMENT

By Charles Rosenberg

These quilts and their accompanying scents are abstractions and as such can be assigned various meanings. I tried to keep interpretation open by using titles that are mostly objective, using color coding as a form of differentiation. But I was guided, sometimes before and sometimes after the fact, towards my own assignments.

The quilts can be hung on a wall or used as bedspreads.

The accompanying scents are available in 10ml vials for \$20 each. Larger sizes are available by special order.

WORKS ON VIEW

Verdant Envelopment

Wool, Cotton, 66 in. x 37 in.

\$7,000.00

I have found in the course of my perfumery explorations that many scents really are experienced synesthetically: we smell herbs and leaves and we see green, or vice versa. The guide was clear that a quilt of green and brown colors would evoke a scent of green herbs and leaves and earthy woods and roots so I chose rhododendron, kaffir lime and marjoram, amongst others, as my green scents, and oud wood and angelica root to represent brown.

Blue Envelopment Jalousie

Wool, Cotton, 40 in. x 33 in.

\$6,000.00

I sometimes think of the patchwork design of the quilts as a ladder or stairway form but in this case the horizontal stripes evoke the slats of jalousie blinds. This is a hiding place; a place perhaps to close the blinds and sleep. For this scent I chose ingredients associated with sleep, including lavender and chamomile and the famously soporific valerian. And some ingredients, for this blue and black quilt, were selected also for their color association. So, the chamomile is the "blue chamomile" whose essential oil really is an intensely deep blue. And black pepper and elemi are present, both of whose fruits are black.



Material Envelopment

Wool, Cotton, 63 in. x 34 in.

\$6,000.00

This is dedicated to my late mother, Lisa-Clerc Rosenberg who passed away in December. She loved perfume and while she valued quality there was rarely a fragrant creation she didn't like. She also loved pink so I chose some of the perfume ingredients for this one based on their "pink" association: rose, pink jasmine, pink peppercorn and pink grapefruit. Synesthetics played a role in the selection of the perfume materials, but so did memory associations. For example, I included tobacco and smoky birch tar in this mix because I have a childhood scent memory of smelling my mother's mink coat after my parents had returned from a night out at the opera. My mother's coat smelled of fur, the perfume she wore and cigarette smoke. It was a good smell.

Empty Warning

Wool, Silk, 54 in. x 59 in.

\$1,000.00

I've tried to subvert the usual relationship between the frame and the ground that exists both in visual art and in quilt making by inverting the location of the patching from the center to the boundary. The space where we expect to find content, has none and the outer edge does. This is dedicated to the memory of Conor McTeague. Conor bequeathed his collection of perfumes and his library of books on scents and perfumery to the Institute. There is no fragrance to accompany this piece as Conor's presence cannot be invoked with a scent, at least not one I could create.

I thank Saskia Wilson-Brown, Daniel Krasofski, Zee Boudreaux and Robertet for the enthusiasm and support they've given me. And I especially thank Ricardo Mendoza for his love and hard work.

About Charles Rosenberg

Charles Rosenberg is an artist working in Los Angeles. He has had solo exhibitions at Pacific Design Center (Los Angeles), Nation (Seattle), Sylvia Heisel (New York) among other galleries, and has been included in group exhibitions at Peter Mendenhall Gallery, Frieze LA, Francois Ghebaly Gallery, the California African American Museum, Sandra Gering Gallery, Last Projects, Galerie Ascan Crone in Germany, and many more. Rosenberg received his M.S. from Bastyr University and his B.F.A. at Rhode Island School of Design, where he was the recipient of the Pell Medal for Excellence in Art History. Instagram: @charlesrosenbergartist

About IAO Gallery

The Institute for Art and Olfaction's gallery is devoted to exhibitions, performances, installations and other expressions that make use of or engage with the medium of scent.

Instagram: @artandolfaction

