DRAWING ON EXPERIENCE:

A STUDY OF VIETNAM VETERAN ARTISTS

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QUALITATIVE TRADITIONS USED

- ETHNOGRAPHY
- CASE STUDY
- PHENOMENOLOGY
RESEARCH DATA

- 74 RESPONDED TO A SURVEY
- 43 INTERVIEWS WERE CONDUCTED
- 18 INTERVIEWS WERE RANDOMLY SELECTED FOR ANALYSIS
AREAS INVESTIGATED

• ARTISTIC HISTORY
• VIETNAM MILITARY SERVICE
• ARTISTIC PRACTICES AND CREATIVE PROCESSES
• THE RELATIONSHIP OF VIETNAM EXPERIENCE TO ART
ARTISTIC HISTORY

• 4 HAD INVOLVEMENT WITH ART AT AN EARLY AGE
• ONE THIRD HAD NO ART IN HIGH SCHOOL
• 10 HAD NO COLLEGE ART CLASSES PRIOR TO VIETNAM
• AFTER VIETNAM: 2 BFA’S, 5 MFA’S, AND 1 MA
VIETNAM MILITARY SERVICE

- INFANTRY
- 1968–1970
- A POSITIVE, CHARACTER-BUILDING, AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE
- A NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE
- TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES
- AESTHETIC RESPONSES
ARTISTIC PRACTICES AND CREATIVE PROCESSES

- VARIATIONS IN PERSONALITY AND COGNITIVE STYLE
- A RANGE OF BEHAVIORS
- VIETNAM IS WHAT MAKES THEM DIFFERENT
THE RELATIONSHIP OF VIETNAM EXPERIENCE TO ART

- HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT
- TRULY LIFE-ALTERING
- LIMITED USE OF VIETNAM AS A SUBJECT
- CONTINUOUS USE OR INTERMITTENT USE
- REPRESENTATIONAL, LITERAL, AND NARRATIVE
- ABSTRACT, SYMBOLIC, AND EXPRESSIONISTIC
- EMOTIONAL CATHARSIS
SELECTED CASE ANALYSIS:

EARLY INVOLVEMENT WITH ART

• REALIST ORIENTATION
• INNATE ABILITY
SELECTED CASE ANALYSIS:
SPONTANEOUS CONVERSION TO ART

• NO INTEREST IN ART
• VERY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES IN VIETNAM
• INTUITIVE, VISIONARY APPROACH DRIVEN BY INNER THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS