

Pat Lasch  
Artist Statement

The first four images of my "cake" sculptures are made from wood cut from 2 x 4's. The paint was applied with pallet knives and squeezed through wax paper cones and pastry tips (my father was a German pastry chef and I apprenticed in his business from 13-19 years old). Actual cakes are temporal, meant to delight the eye and the taste buds. My "cake" sculptures are inedible, meant to delight the eye, but also meant as an object of meditation. Cakes mark time and transitions important in our lives. There is an awareness of aging, and walking through the passages of time within our cultural context: birthdays; weddings; bar -mitzvahs; communions. In the late 70's, I made a series of black cakes, honoring death, our last transition. I wanted to mark time.

The recent "dress" sculptures are made completely of paint, glass beads, and Baroque pearls. THEY ARE NOT FABRIC. Each of the "Christening Dresses" symbolize one woman's experience: her births; her miscarriages; her abortions; her burials. The "Communion Dress" with one detail image (the last 2 slides) is part of a 5 part installation called "Woman Blessed": the Christening Dress; the Communion Dress; the Wedding Dress; the 50th Anniversary piece; the Shroud: which will be part of the installation next year at the Palm Springs Museum of Art.

The "Dress" sculptures are made by pouring paint onto glass in large areas; letting the paint cure for up to two weeks; peeling back the sheets of paint and then sewing it together (as if it were fabric). Paint is then painted on to reinforce the structure. The "lace" parts are made in several ways. I mostly squeeze the paint through small wax paper cones (as I did in piping cakes) and sometimes I make molds of lace and apply heavy bodied paint to the molds with pallet knives. I mix silver and pearl powder into the paints to achieve the satin finish.