

Cicely Cottingham

FLAGS

If a flag is a symbol, then what do my *Flags* stand for (or represent)? The psychologist, Carl Jung contrasted the view that a sign stands for something known and a symbol is used to stand for something that is unknown and that cannot be made clear or precise. The meaning of my *Flags* is certainly unknown to me, except that they continue an exploration of color, form and light and are an emotional reflection of my immediate visual environment: urban, domestic and natural.

Flags are a break from my work of fifteen years—that of single works composed of four panels each. Each *Flag* is composed of three panels of different dimensions and are acrylic on tracing vellum. As they accumulated, I began to picture them blowing in the wind, suspended from a line, like clothes on a clothesline or Tibetan prayer flags.

Using President Obama's first book, "Dreams from My Father" as a title oracle, I closed my eyes and for each title, pointed a finger to a place on a page. "We don't have more time" became a title, and so on.