

TYLER GRAPHICS LTD.



Richard Smith

250 Kisco Avenue

Mount Kisco, New York 10549

Telephone (914) 241-2707

Facsimile (914) 241-7756

Cartouche Series

Richard Smith's *Cartouche Series*, completed in 1980, is a group of fifty-five wall hangings, each made of two or three separate overlapping panels. Within the series there are five basic configurations for hanging the panels, each designated by a Roman numeral.

The same techniques were used to make each panel. First a base sheet of newly made white pulp was couched onto a felt. Then a wet layer of dyed cotton fabric was spread over the base sheet. Some of the fabric had been previously dyed and soaked in water prior to use, but most of the fabric layers were dyed and immediately placed on the base sheet, allowing the colors to bleed. A second sheet of pulp was couched onto the fabric in registration with the white base sheet. This sheet was made of colored pulps that were formed or poured on the wove mould. Smith also applied pulps and dyes freehand and made multiple couchings of small cotton-pulp and kozo-fiber sheets from simply constructed wire screen moulds. The fabric dyes, and layers of pulp were pressed and dried.

During assembly the fabric was trimmed, and metal grommets were placed in the four corners of each panel. The panels were positioned in one of the five overlapping configurations, and a fifth grommet was added to each panel, with cotton twine and a plastic ring attached for hanging. Two anodized aluminum tubes were attached in an X configuration to the back of each panel with cotton twine tied to the corner grommets. The finished works were then hung on the wall and adjusted for their correct hanging position.

The paper used for the project was made by the artist in collaboration with Kenneth Tyler, Lindsay Green, and Steve Reeves. Also assisting the artist with the constructions were Tom Strianese, Duane Mitch, Kim Halliday, and Lee Funderburg. The front panel of each hanging is signed R. Smith in pencil on the lower edge. Each panel is identified by a Roman numeral designating the configuration, a variation number, and a chop mark in the lower corner on the verso.