

Looking back, as a retrospective commands us to do, I can see work from the 1970's that Roberta Harris was making when we met in Houston. Thinking about that abstract three-dimensional work and about her current work (some included in *Thrive*, which I guest curated for *Diverse Works* last year), I am struck by her commitment to the form language of abstraction as a way to communicate elemental forces and forms of life. In my mind's eye I see her adding, subtracting, compressing and intensifying a visual language in pursuit of meaning, always a larger meaning. *UP* represents the fruits of a personal quest to realize one of art's most ancient purposes: to communicate large ideas about how to live, in an economical and accessible iconography.

Mary Ross Taylor

Independent curator

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