



Robert Fones - Clip 3

“Butter Models”

“Butter Models” came after a period in which I was exploring Southern Ontario in a Volkswagen van that I had bought and I was very interested in archeological sites. And I visited a number of archeological sites, like the Southwold Earthworks, south of London, Ontario, the Serpent Mounds near Peterborough and I was reading a lot about them and going to the museums to see the artifacts, that have come from these sites. So that was kind of a background to the piece, the idea of a prehistoric site and a collection of artifacts that came from that site. With “Butter Models” it is a similar situation. There’s a collection of artifacts in the case of “Butter Models” they are simulated blocks of butter and there is a site - or a number of sites - which are indicated on a map. And the sites are the creameries that produce the butter. And, the artifacts, in this case the butter blocks reveal something about the site that they come from, something of the history of the place, the ancestry of the founder, the creamery perhaps, there is a whole range of iconography associated with butter, gold, sun, ribbons, cows, streams, trees, farms ... and. So, just as in a museum you would have a collection of artifacts from a site, with the “Butter Models”, you would have the collection of the butter from the very sites in Ontario. And there is a map, there’s also a component of that

piece that locates the creameries but without any reference to boundaries or cities or highways, which I not indicated on the map. The map is strictly a geographical map, mostly to focus on the, what I felt were the environmental conditions, that caused the butter in one place to be different from the butter in another place. Because of the different grass the cows were eating, the different kind of cows, the different water, the different soil. So, because of that, I eliminated all contemporary references on the map.

