

Summer 1994

## Telephone Tryptich

Pat Kikut

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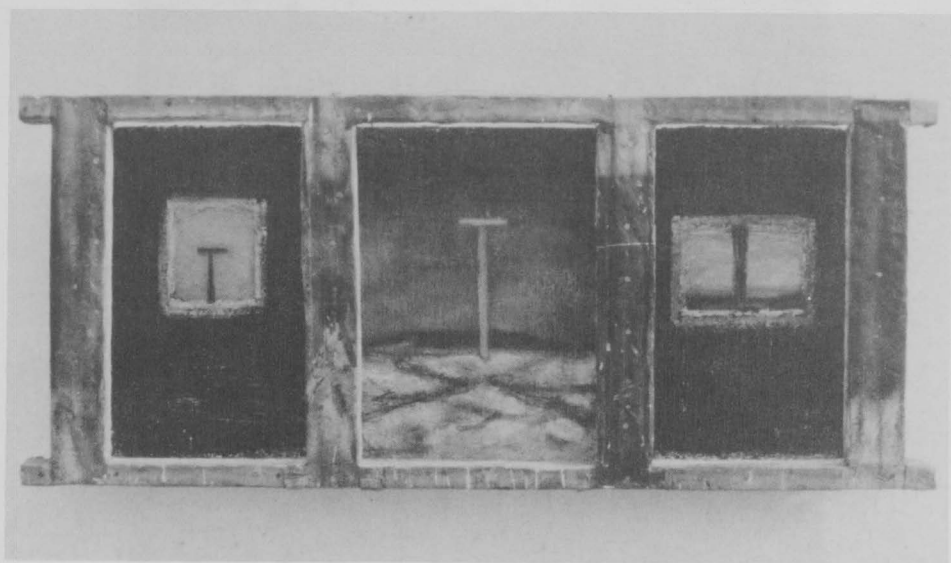
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PAT KIKUT, *Telephone Tryptich*, 1994  
Mixed media

*"Telephone Tryptich' is an altar-like construction that explores a telephone pole in a figurative and literal way. Telephone poles are interesting to me in many ways. Beyond their similarity to the Christian Cross, with its inherent reference to sacrifice and resurrection, I am interested in the fact that poles, like people, are ever present. Like us, a telephone pole is rooted and earth bound and also like us, its energy flows above the ground, closer to the sky. I find it curious that the telephone pole needs a designated amount of space to function, as in a stretch of telephone line. Alone, they become dysfunctional. This piece is contained by a metal frame that is over-built and is intended to monumentalize this small truism. I like to think of it in relation to the absolutist architecture and presence of Versailles."*

*About the cover: "On a recent trip to Butte I found an old Start-O-Pac battery box. It had been abandoned in the mine trailings and was used as a target. I like to think of it jumping with each bullet blast. Hope and revival are suggested in this piece and be understood best if the history of the box is considered. At one time, it was used to spark dead batteries. When it went dead it was thrown out and later used as a target. Now it is reused as art. Along with the painted image it pays homage to the unstoppable American sense of progress."*

Pat Kikut recently received his MFA in painting from the University of Montana. He spends summers working in Alaska and plans on traveling before getting back to the studio.