

Mary K. McIntyre, *Light Cycle*

Discipline: Film, Television and Video

The flickering light in a darkened theatre is like the light that illuminates our faces when we gather around a lamp or fire to hear stories – the events of the day, family history, ancestral tales and spiritual instructions. Our mothers, aunts and grandmothers transmit these narratives to us. I want to make the connection between film, the primal light source, and women – the storytellers who shape and preserve culture from one generation to the next.

The candlestick I have created is based on the traditional Weihnachtspyramide, a German Christmas ornament that uses the heated air generated by candles to turn a propeller, which in turn causes a platform decorated with small figures to revolve – a sort of miniature carousel. I use this mechanism to turn a series of small cutout figures, whose shadows are cast by the candlelight onto an encircling shade. In this way, the candlestick evokes the way that we imagine the figures of a tale in the flickering light of the movie theatre, or an evening cooking fire.