

Michon Weeks

Odell, Maggie. "Wheels Within Wheels, Worlds within Worlds." Didactic Text for Michon Weeks' Mural in Old Main, St. Olaf College, August, 2015.

Wheels within Wheels, Worlds within Worlds

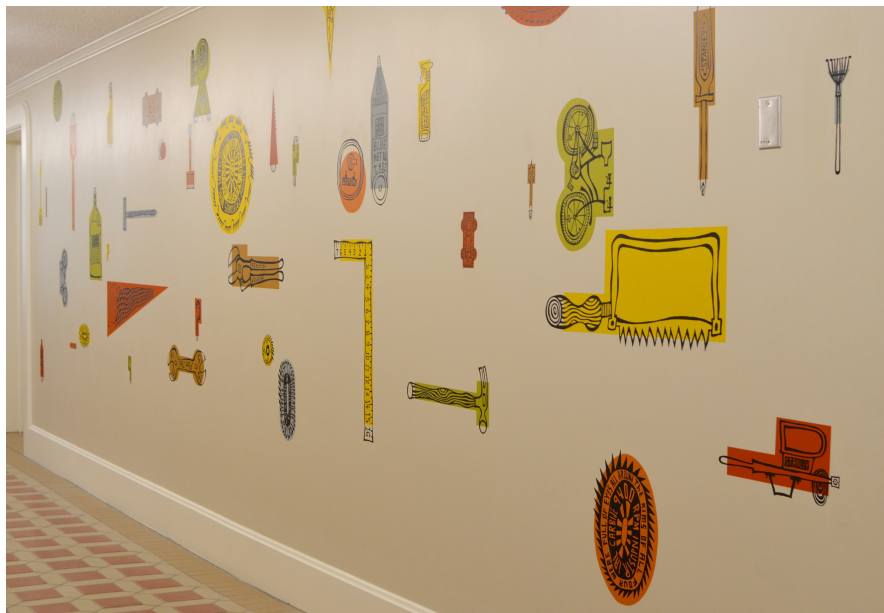
By Maggie Odell

When Ezekiel sees a wheel on the earth, two worlds collide. The heavenly world is brought to earth, in the form of wheels animated by God's spirit. And the earthly world is brought to heaven, as the living creatures beside the wheels become God's throne bearers.

Ezekiel's vision says these worlds were always meant to be together, and ancient interpreters teased out this fusion of realities in myriad ways. Ezekiel's vision expressed an ancient hope for a world in which the world's chaos is not vanquished so much as it is channeled, becoming the animating spirit of all living things. For Jewish mystics, the vision became a vehicle for drawing near to divinity. And in Christian thought it was an important text for reflecting on the mystery of Christ's humanity and divinity. Wheels within wheels are worlds within worlds, spirit in matter, sacred in profane.

By connecting the words of Ezekiel's vision to representations of objects in her garage, Michon Weeks encourages me to reflect on how similar objects touch my daily life with sacred, holy energy. Could this kind of living, chaotic-yet-sacred energy also animate the world I live in now? In my messy garage, of all places? Is that Weber grill an altar? And how is that spinning saw blade a vehicle of sacred creativity? Have I missed the sacred in my daily life? This wall painting makes me wonder.

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I Saw a Wheel on the Earth, 2015. Old Main, 3rd Floor, St. Olaf College, Acrylic on wall, 7' 2" x 24'