

PORTRAIT of a SCULPTOR

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WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO BECOME A SCULPTOR?

I don't know if I actually chose to become a sculptor. I began studying visual arts last year as an alternative to working as a registered nurse having had some time out of the work force to have a family. I have however always thought of myself as a 'maker'. Throughout my life I have always had some project on the go whether it be making clothes, toys for my children or cooking. So to finally study art and create sculpture has been a natural progression for me.

WHERE DO YOU FIND YOUR INSPIRATION?

I find my inspiration in a couple of ways. Often my work starts with the material itself. I will come across something that intrigues me whether it is an interesting texture, structure or colour. The materials that I am drawn to are often natural and I often like to work with them in their raw state. I also like to put contrasting materials together at times such as using a natural material but combining it with an unexpected colour. I find my work is usually inspired by the natural environment. There is so much intricate detail in natural things and I like the fact that my work encourages people to take a closer look.

HOW DOES CREATIVITY COME TO YOU AND WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN IT DOES?

As with many people my ideas usually come to me at the most inappropriate moments, when I am helpless to do anything about them. Times such as; driving in the car or two o'clock in the morning, my only way of grabbing and securing these ideas is to write or sketch as soon as I get the opportunity. Sometimes I don't get back to them for weeks but as long as I have them documented they don't escape.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE HOW YOU FEEL WHEN AN IDEA STARTS TO CONCEPTUALLY TAKE FORM?

I love the rush I get when the idea starts to conceptually take form. Sometimes this is a quick and smooth process other times weeks pass before it all starts to come together and fall into place. It is almost a panicky feeling when the initial idea comes to me, I feel like I want to drop everything and spend every moment working on the piece until it is complete. Unfortunately this is rarely possible!

WHEN DO YOU KNOW A WORK IS DEVELOPING, READY OR COMPLETE, AS OPPOSED TO EVER EVOLVING?

I'm not sure if I ever feel that my work has ever been completely resolved. I'm sure if I went back to pieces I had completed years before I could always make changes. I think art is often a reflection of where you are in a point of time and as time passes so too will your view of the work. The mediums I work in are so variable in their capabilities that sometimes the more I play with them the more ideas and inspiration I get.

WHAT OTHER INFLUENCES STIR YOU INTO ACTION? E.G. MUSIC, ENVIRONMENT, MEDITATION, MOVIES, PAINTERS, DANCERS, EXPERIENCES, OCCASIONS, EVENTS, SOCIAL COMMENT

I am probably most inspired by nature and the structures, patterns and colours that nature creates. I also get a lot of inspiration from materials. The hardware store is a constant source of inspiration and possibility for me. I really enjoy the challenge of using a common material for a completely unexpected sculptural purpose.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR SCULPTURAL JOURNEY TO TAKE YOU?

I hope that my sculptural journey continues to offer me challenge and great satisfaction. I get so much pleasure in creating things which please my eye and hand. I also love the interaction and inspiration I get from other artists I meet through exhibitions and study.



WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO EXHIBIT?

The 2011 Brighton Jetty Classic Sculpture Exhibition (BJCS) was the first exhibition I had ever entered. As I had been studying visual arts for 6 months I decided this would be a good way to motivate myself to continue to produce work whilst studying other subjects. This has continued to be my motivation for entering exhibitions. I find that it helps to keep my momentum going whilst I am studying and having to produce works for assessments that may not be in areas or mediums I would normally choose to work in.

WHAT IN PARTICULAR ENCOURAGES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BJCS EXHIBITION?

I had such great experiences in the 2011 exhibition by winning the Indoor Sculpture prize and being involved in this exciting community event I was very keen to re-enter this year. The BJCS Exhibition allows people who may not normally attend an art exhibition the opportunity to view some amazing local and interstate artist's work in a beautiful setting at a festive time of year.

WHAT SHOULD WE LOOK FORWARD TO FROM YOUR WORK IN 2013?

The sculptures I have been working on for 2013 are in two different mediums. I am producing work in paper clay once again but this time have been exploring the concepts of family connection and the effects of distance both physical and emotional on this bond. My other work is a string sculpture which has developed as a result of time spent looking into the flower structures of native plants and the exploration of string as a sculptural medium. I am also looking forward to the opportunity to create an outdoor installation at Mulberry Farm in Yankalilla as part of the Leafy Sea Dragon Festival in April.

