

Bill Ikler

Artist Statement

The sculptures Torso I and Torso II were inspired by an exhibit of Greek and Roman sculpture seen during a recent trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The ravages of time had rendered most of the work without heads, arms or legs, leaving only the torso.

I've been making representations of the human form ever since taking Figure Drawing in art school. The fascination with the human figure goes back almost as far as archeology itself, with discoveries of small fetish figures like the Venus of Willendorf, made over 25,000 years ago, and continues in almost every art movement since. The human body transcends anatomy, in a harmony of line, movement, and form. Torsos I and II were cast from the front part of a mold of an original clay sculpture of a full torso. Torso I is a shell of glazed red stoneware. Torso II is a shell cast from paper pulp made from figure drawings that would otherwise be discarded. The textured surface resembles the weathered stone that it was inspired by.

Biography

I was one of those kids who never stopped drawing after kindergarten. I attended the University of Illinois from 1966 to 1970 as a fine-arts major and attended art classes at California State University in 1972 and apprenticed with goldsmith Carla Boyle from 1973 to 1974. For the last 30 years I have been self-employed as a goldsmith and sculptor. My work is in collections throughout the United States, including jewelry pieces made for pianist Peter Kater, singer/songwriter Dan Fogelberg, and ski film pioneer Warren Miller. In conjunction with John Haertling Studios (haertling.com) in Boulder, I sculpted several bronze portions of awards for the U.S. Olympic Committee. Copies of these awards were given to President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

I realized a life-long dream when I visited the Uffizi Gallery, the Galleria dell'Accademia and other museums in Florence and Venice, Italy. During a recent trip to NYC I walked among the greats at the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Art, the Whitney, and MOMA.

Awards & Exhibitions:

Land Through the Lens photography exhibit 2019, sponsored by Boulder County Open Space
"The Hive" was exhibited in the EcoCreations Seven juried show at Arts Longmont Gallery in April 2016.

"Tango" was in the Boulder County Locals exhibit at Bricolage Gallery in Boulder, Colorado, in March and April 2016.

Phoenix Multisport fundraising art auction 2014.

"Venus, Recycled" was awarded an honorable mention in the 2011 Eco-Creations show of the Longmont Council of the Arts.

"Medusa" took second at the Eco-Creations 2010 show in Longmont, Colorado. "The Wedding," was accepted into a juried art show, "Pleasurable Obsessions," at the Lakewood Fine Arts Center in Denver in 2003.

Gilpin County Arts Association, juried exhibit, 1999

Solo exhibit of painting and sculpture, UC Berkeley, 1973

CU Boulder, permanent outdoor sculpture installation (in conjunction with Haertling Awards)

Juror for the annual Congressional High School Arts Competition in 2009