

Linda Ganstrom

Artist Statement

Creating physical depictions of historical and contemporary women, my realistic ceramic sculptures seek to honor women. Building on domestic depictions of women as dolls, mannequins, or fashion icons, I combine my personal experiences with my own body to the tradition of nude sculpture created by and for the male gaze. My figures are seen through the lens of a woman's experience and truth. The life scale, realistic color and detail of these figures confronts the viewer in real space, exposed and individual, vulnerable, a presence beyond beauty. Fired to high temperatures these hollow clay figures have a stoic presence allowing them to withstand the pressures of time, offering a form of immortality not dependent on flesh. Painted after they are high fired, layers of Golden Fluid acrylic washes build a depth to the skin tones. Realism beyond beauty, mystery, and character continue to fascinate and inform my figures while personality, gesture, and fashion ornament their characters.