

Kristine Poole 2018 Artist Statement:

The first time I stepped into a clay studio, I knew this was to be my life's work. The smell and the feel were as familiar to me as my own hands. The tactile nature of forming the clay was irresistibly seductive, hinting at an innate connection between creativity and sensuality which led me directly to working with the figure. From the beginning, I knew instinctively that the limitless possibilities presented by an unformed lump of clay made it the perfect medium with which to explore the unlimited expressions imaginable with the human body.

Concept and content are essential in my work. Classically inspired with contemporary overtones, my sculptures bring into consideration diverse topics including sociocultural experience and commentary, the source of inspiration and the muse, and reflections on my personal life odyssey. These ideas are developed intuitively on the timeless fundamentals of anatomy and attention to detail, blending the challenges of rendering the beauty of the human form with my inherent curiosity and love of storytelling.

With many pieces, my focus is on telling the story simply through the figure itself, but just as frequently, I use the form as a canvas. I often cover the body with text, juxtaposing a visceral reaction to the subtleties of body language with a time-based, cerebral response to the power of words. Relief imagery and motifs are also used at times to embellish the story of the piece. Both the text and relief work create patterns that obscure and at the same time emphasize the forms of the body, heightening the sense of being able to read a person's interior landscape and experience through the external forms of the body.

Often life-sized, my current sculptures are built hollow, with no armature and fired in one piece. Large scale figurative sculpture has always fascinated me - both the physicality of creating it and the way it leaves a palpable impression of another being in my space, one that demands my notice and attention.

To pause for a few moments, lost in the experience of a sculpture, engaging in the questions, considerations and imagery as its story unfolds is ultimately sharing a moment in the imagination of the maker and opens the door for the viewer to ponder and begin creating for themselves, if only in their mind.