

WOMEN

STATES OF BEING



MELANIE FURTADO

Women : States of Being

Women: States of Being is a sculpture series exploring the universality of human emotion through the intimate moments of contemporary women. These sculptures allow us to encounter diverse individual women across cultural backgrounds, ages, races, body types and sexual orientations.

The women are portrayed unclothed, immersed in their own inward contemplation. The vulnerability of their naked human presence allows us to experience these women in an authentic state of being, not often found in the interactions of daily living.

This series celebrates the diversity of the contemporary female body and depicts women in non-classical positions that do not pander to the aesthetic interests of the viewer. Their bodies retain their personal agency and the right to simply exist for themselves, free from social constraints. Purposefully ambiguous poses allow the viewer to engage their own personal interpretations.

The sculptures are created entirely from observation of the model and without the use of photographic images. An in-depth visual study of the body is combined with an intuitive response to the emotional presence of the individual posing. The model's experience of resting in the same position over time allows for inwardly contemplative moments to develop naturally. The forms of the body are built up by adding and subtracting clay, resulting in a highly textured surface that shows the tools marks and fingerprints of the creation process. This evidence is left visible on the surface of the final work, suggesting that the sculpture itself is still in a state of becoming.

These figure sculptures invite us to listen beyond the social identity of an individual and connect to their essential humanity. By allowing us to experience their intimate moments of contemplation, we encounter the individual women and at the same time, encounter aspects of ourselves within them.



Paula, Jesmonite, 48 x 22 x 30cm

These sculptures are initially made in clay and then cast in Jesmonite, a durable, environmentally-friendly material that feels like plaster to the touch.



Kelly, Jesmonite, 60 x 20 x 15 cm



Marcelle, Jesmonite, 34 x 53 x 27 cm



Akiko, Jesmonite, 27 x 20 x 22 cm



Giulia Jesmonite, 15 x 48 x 22 cm



Carmel, Jesmonite and mirror, 60 x 20 x 20 cm



Lena, Jesmonite, 35 x 29 x 42 cm



Soroya, Jesmonite, 48 x 28 x 43 cm



Lukianna, Jesmonite, 32 x 21 x 23 cm



Sacha, Jesmonite, 53 x 22 x 22 cm
(transgender model: female body, male gender identity)

Artist Biography - Melanie Furtado



Melanie Furtado is an award-winning sculptor who explores the universality of emotional states through the human figure. Born in Victoria, BC, on Canada's West Coast, she graduated in Fine Arts from the Victoria College of Art in 2011, and continued her studies to master the traditional techniques of figurative sculpture. Her work has been internationally exhibited in Canada, Japan, England and France.

Furtado has been selected for residencies including Jour et Nuit Culture in Paris (2018-2020), Arteles Creative Center in Finland (February 2020), and Antony Gormley's High House residency in Norfolk, England.

She is also a passionate art educator. In 2018, she founded Sculpture Atelier, an independent sculpture program offering online courses and international workshops.

Melanie Furtado currently lives and works in Paris.

Curriculum Vitae

Melanie Furtado

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Selected Exhibitions

- 2023 *FACE 2023*, Society of Portrait Sculptors, Garrison Chapel, London, UK
- 2023 *Salon des Artistes Français*, Grand Palais Ephemere, Paris, France
- 2020 *Residency Finissage*, solo show, Jour et Nuit Culture, Paris, France
- 2019 *Human Forms*, Break'Art Mix Residency, Paris, France
- 2019 *Body Language*, Fortune Gallery, Victoria, Canada
- 2018 *Artistes du collectif*, Jour et Nuit Artist Residency, Paris, France
- 2017 *Unseen Spaces*, Chinatown, Victoria, Canada
- 2016 *About Face*, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Canada
- 2016 *American Women Artists*, Bennington Centre for the Arts, USA
- 2016 *Residency Exhibition*, Break'Art Mix, Paris, France
- 2016 *Integrate Arts Festival*, CACGV, Victoria, Canada

Awards and Residencies

- 2023 Medaille du Bronze, Salon des Artistes Français, Grand Palais Ephemere, Paris
- 2020 High House Residency by Antony Gormley, England (selected)
- 2020 Arteles Creative Centre Residency, grant, Finland (February)
- 2018 Espace Jour et Nuit Culture Residency, Paris, France (2 years)
- 2015 Break'Art Mix Residency, Paris, France (July)
- 2010 Student Recognition Award, South Jubilee Association, Canada
- 2009 Entrance Scholarship, Victoria College of Art, Canada

Selected Press and Media

- 2020 *Trois minutes avec Melanie Furtado*, film, Guillaume Ulmann
- 2020 *In Conversation with Lauren Jimerson*, White Hot Magazine, New York
- 2020 *Women: States of Being Exhibit Review*, Jenny Jacquet, Tainted Glory
- 2020 *Silence Awareness Existence Catalogue*, Arteles Creative Center, Finland
- 2020 *Women: States of Being*, online feature, Booooooom! Magazine
- 2017 *Unseen Spaces – Chinatown artists*, Boulevard Magazine, Canada
- 2016 *About Face*, Getting Figurative at the Massey Gallery, AGGV Magazine

Education

- 2011 Fine Arts Diploma Program, Victoria College of Art, BC, Canada
- Certification of Molding and Casting, Victoria College of Art, BC, Canada

Contact

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please contact Melanie Furtado.

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