

SUSAN VALYI

ARTIST STATEMENT / BIO

Susan Valyi gives expression to the human form, she transmits and translates its language through humour and wit. She combines traditional sculptural knowledge and technical skills with her use of found and formed objects and create sculptures of great playfulness and appeal. Her combination of found objects, scale, and metamorphism with a folk art approach to human anatomy is sure to bring a smile to any observers face. Humor is a rare thing in the world of art and even rarer in a piece of art that can still challenge you.

It seems as though there is nothing I haven't tried. Art for me has been a long process of exploration and evolution. I'm not sure where these creatures come from but these new works are the most fulfilling I've found as yet. I believe that the art I create is a culmination of my life experience. Everything I see gets subconsciously banked and edited, waiting for that trigger of inspiration. Don't laugh - a TV commercial can do it for me. I see a posture or figurative expression and I'm off to sketch like mad. I trust the moment when a sketch speaks to me and I know it's time to head to the studio. These metamorphic creations are a mythical and anthropomorphic journey into the expressiveness of human posture.

I work with found objects and scavenged wood. My constructions are assemblages, joined with resin. I build up shapes like fitting a puzzle together, guided by sketches and drawings. The finished pieces are oiled or sometimes white-washed, then polished to a smooth but textured patina which reveals the underlying mosaic of wood. A sculpture can take anywhere from two weeks to three months to complete.

I live in the country with my family, near St.Eugène, Ontario, half way between Montreal and Ottawa. My studio is a converted garden shed, well back from the house where I can make a lot of noise and raise enormous clouds of dust.

SELECTED EXHIBITION HISTORY

SOLO SHOWS / THREE ARTIST SHOWS

- 2011 Pentimo Gallery, Toronto, Ontario
Maison de la Culture Rosemont, La Petite-Petrie, Montreal, Quebec
- 2003 Galerie Luz, Belgo Building, Montreal, Quebec
- 2002 The Elisabeth Skelly Gallery, Ontario
- 1998 The Arbor Gallery, Vankleek Hill, Ontario

GROUP SHOWS

- 2016 - 2024 Group Show, Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2019 Oeno Outdoor Sculpture Garden, Toronto, ON
- 2015 Sopa Fine Arts, Kelowna, BC
The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON
Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2014 Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, First Canadian Place Gallery, Toronto, ON
The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON
Garden Sculpture Show, Skelly Gallery, St Eugene, ON
Oeno Outdoor Sculpture Garden, Toronto, ON
- 2013 The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, ON
Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2012 The Reclaimers, The Blue Mountain Foundations for the Arts, Collingwood, ON
The Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, ON
The New Art Festival, Ottawa, ON
- 2011 Muse Gallery, Toronto, ON
Summer Salon 5, First Canadian Place, Toronto, ON
The Reclaimers, Nova Scotia Centre for Craft & Design, Halifax, NS
- 2010 Skelly Gallery, St Eugene, ON
Riverin-Arlogos Gallery, Eastman, QB
Summer Salon 4, First Canadian Place, Toronto, ON
The Toronto Artist Project, ON
- 2009 The New Art Festival, Ottawa, ON
The Toronto Artist Project, ON
Harbinger Gallery, Waterloo, ON
Masterworks East, seven month touring exhibition sponsored by the Ontario
Crafts Council, ON
- 2008 Skelly Gallery, ON
Verandah and Garden, Rice Lake Gallery and A.K.Collings Gallery, Port Hope, ON
Angell Gallery, Toronto, ON
The Toronto Artist Project, ON
LaFreniere and Pai, Ottawa, ON

2007 Sandra Goldie Gallery, Montreal, QB
SOFA Palm Beach, FL
SOFA Chicago
Artist as Person, Black Walnut Gardens, Milford, ON
The Re-natural Exhibition, Arthouse, Calgary, AB
Perspectives, Arcturus Gallery, Toronto, ON
Out of this World, Arcturus Gallery, Toronto, ON
Art d'echo, Mile-End Library, Montreal, QB

NOTEWORTHY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EDUCATION

- Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax, Nova Scotia

AWARDS

- Two Corporate Purchase Awards, 2008, The Toronto Artist Project