

FRASER PATERSON

ARTIST STATEMENT / BIO

“Sculpture has always been the most natural way to express myself, taking a piece of stone or wood and letting it show me what lies beneath its surface brings me great pleasure.”

Fraser Paterson was born in Bangor, Wales. He immigrated to Canada with his family when he was a small child. Throughout his formative years, he displayed a passion for sculpture and painting, which eventually lead him to study at the Ontario College of Art. During this time, he was accepted to participate in the off-campus program in Florence Italy where he rediscovered his first love, sculpture.

Upon graduation he apprenticed for renowned Inuit sculptor David Ruben Piqtoukun, working on large scale stone installations and assisting with smaller stone projects. Fraser then spent 6 months working as an artist in residence in Provence, France at the Four Winds Atelier. Ursula Hanes a well-known British sculptor had Fraser execute three large sculptures in limestone working from her maquettes while in France. Upon his return from France, he used his experience working on large-scale installations and stone carving to enter the world of props and set design for film and television. He created large sculptures for Paramount Pictures, eventually working as set designer and props builder for the Discovery Channel.

When working in stone Fraser draws inspiration from master sculptors like Auguste Rodin and Constantine Brancusi. Fraser releases the female figure from raw alabaster using chisels, grinders and rasps. Devoid of heads and limbs the translucent stone bodies with quartz veins running through them, resemble an archaeological discovery. The stone appears to be revealing its ancient secrets to fresh eyes. When Fraser directs his creative energy to his cold rolled steel sculptures he reveals a playful conceptual side. His sculpture deals with self-image, self-projection and relationships, employing metamorphosis, scale and symbolism to deliver a question to his audience rather than an answer.

Fraser continues to participate in many Gallery exhibitions and is currently working on a new series of work incorporating steel and stone in his figurative style.