

DENISA PROCHAZKA

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BIOGRAPHY

born: 1972

Denisa Prochazka is an award-winning Canadian artist living in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She is a classically trained figurative sculptor with a passion for portrait sculpture and figurative clay reliefs. Denisa was born in the Czech Republic and grew up playing with clay in her mother's ceramic studio. Her mother was her first inspiration, muse, and guide. When her family immigrated to Canada at the age of thirteen, she continued her studies in Fine Art and Sculpture, graduating from O.C.A.D University in Toronto. She was selected to complete her final year in Florence, Italy, where she experienced a life-changing moment witnessing the awe-inspiring work of Michelangelo, whose sculptures had a tremendous influence on her sense of mastery.

Her early childhood experience and love of clay led her back to this medium where she felt complete freedom of expression through its tactile movement and flexibility, expressing feminine softness and a high level of control, manifesting her visions into reality. She creates her original sculptures in clay and finalizes her artwork in a variety of media such as bronze, hydro-stone, aqua-resin, concrete, aluminum, and steel.

Denisa has attracted many special commissions and top awards for her artwork. She has participated in over thirty exhibitions and her sculptures reside in private collections in Canada and USA. She has been commissioned to create Awards of Excellence for the Nelson Mandela Legacy and Ottawa University BHM, Women Excellence Awards, and Guinean Excellence Awards, among others. Manhattan Arts International has awarded her with the Featured Artist Art Award, Second Place Special Recognition Arts Award, and Awards of Excellence. She has served as a Jury Panelist for the Sculpture Category in the 5th and the 6th edition of the Boynes Emerging Artist Award, Australia, 2021, 2022. She has also served as a Jury Panelist for Manhattan Arts International, NY, All Women Art Exhibition in 2019. Denisa was a Finalist in the ARC 14th International Salon Competition, Sculpture Category, 2019. She is a member of several prestigious organizations, such as a Signature Member of The American Artists Professional League, NY, USA; an Associate Member of the National Sculpture Society, New York, NY, USA; a Showcase Artist Member of Manhattan Arts International, NY, USA and an Associate Member of the Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club, NY, USA.

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a clay artist, my sensations and inspirations are very closely associated with the feel of my environment, the feel of the earth, the textures of leaves, flowers and trees, and the unique shapes and rocks that spread across the fields and mountains. This natural, physically dense and solid reality is reflected in the creative process of my work, shaped with my hands and the movement of my fingertips. At the heart of my artistic process lies a deep reverence for the suppleness, delicacy, and strength of the clay medium.

The human form, and its endless variety of expressions and movements fascinate me the most. There is another aspect of the physical art form that takes place, which makes figurative art so fascinating; it is the ethereal presence that manifests itself through the human spirit. Through my sculptures, I aim to express hope and connection, conveying the physical, emotional, and spiritual depths of the human experience. The themes in my work are often inspired by the feminine nature that comes from within. Many of my sculptures depict female subjects created to empower and inspire the feminine balance in this world. The sacred feminine being the essence of life, a symbol of creation, unconditional love, resilience and hope.

I harness the play of light and shadow to accentuate the lines and forms of my sculptures, imbuing them with a sense of life and motion that transcends the static nature of the medium itself. Casting the final works in medium such as bronze allows the clay the process of transformation into a state of permanence and timelessness.

The need for creative expression became reinforced with the birth of my own child and the desire to heal, protect and empower. Symbolism transcends the physical into the spiritual realm. I strongly believe in creating meaningful and healing artwork that has the power to transform people's lives. Some of my sculptures are specifically created for donation to Women's Shelters, as well as charity projects to support orphaned children. My goal as an artist is to bring my art forward to public spaces so that passersby can find peace, beauty, and a healing connection for a moment in time in their life's journey.

RESUME

EDUCATION

2016-17, 2019 Clay Portrait & Figure classes with master sculptor Philippe Faraut, NY, USA

1996 - 1997 O.C.A.D. University, Florence, Italy, Postgraduate Studies Diploma, Florence Program, Renaissance Art History, and Marble carving sculpture studio

1993 - 1996 O.C.A.D. University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Graduate of Fine Arts - Diploma Sculpture/Installation Program

1992 - 1993 York University, Visual Arts Program, Toronto

1987 - 1992 Canterbury High School - Visual Arts Program

EXHIBITIONS

2024 The American Artists Professional League, Spring Members Online Show, NY, USA

2024 Manhattan Arts International, "HerStory", Invitational online all-female exhibition, NY, USA

2023 95th Grand National Exhibition, American Artists Professional League, Salmagundi Club, New York, USA

2023 5th Flower International Juried Art Competition, Art Show International Gallery, CA, USA

2022 The American Artists Professional League, Spring Members Online Show, NY, USA

2022 Femina, Gallerium Art Exhibition and Publication

2021 Manhattan Arts International, HerStory 2020, juried online all-female exhibition, NY, USA

2021 O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, Women Artists Making Their Mark 2021, CA, USA

2021 The Healing Power of Art & Artists, Many Shaded of Gray in Art online show, NY, USA

2020 The American Artists Professional League, '92 Grand National Exhibition', NY, USA

2020 Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club Associate Show, NY, US

2020 Allied Artists of America Associate Show, NY, USA

2020 American Artists Professional League, 'Favorite Things', USA

2020 Healing Power of Art & Artists, Healing Power of Art 2020 juried exhibition, NY, USA

2019 J.Mane Gallery, All Women 2019 juried exhibition 2019, USA

2019 The Healing Power of Art and Artists, Art that Lifts our Spirit, NY, USA

2019 9th Annual Figurative Art Exhibition, Light SpaceTime online gallery, USA

2018 Cube Gallery, 'Great BIG smalls XIV' exhibition, Ottawa, Canada

2018 Healing Power of Art & Artists, "Our Bond with Nature" Online Juried Exhibition, NY, USA

2018 Manhattan Arts International, HerStory 2018, juried online all-female exhibition, NY, USA

2018 ArtistTable juried online all-female exhibition, Her Story 2018, USA

2018 J.Mane Gallery, juried online exhibition, MIND BODY SPIRIT 2018, USA

2018 Allied Artists of America, juried online member exhibition, NY, USA

2018 Gallery 25N, Faces of Humanity 2018, juried online exhibition, NY, USA

2018 Society of Canadian Artists, juried SCA online exhibition, Canada

2018 Manhattan Arts International juried online exhibition "New Beginnings"

2017 Salmagundi Club Gallery, Allied Artists of America 104th juried exhibition, New York, NY, USA

2017 Healing Power of Art, Manhattan Arts International juried online exhibition, NY, USA

2017 Solo sculpture exhibition, Artifact Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2017 All women Juried Theme Exhibition "HERStory", Manhattan Arts International, NYC, USA

2017 Special Recognition Award "New Beginnings", Manhattan Arts International, NYC, USA

2016 New York ART EXPO 2016, New York, NY, USA

2015 Sculpture Exhibition, Dimensions, NCNS, Ottawa, Canada

2015 Southern Nevada Museum of Fine Art, ICM exhibition, Las Vegas, USA

2015 Kanata Art Gallery, Best of NCNS, Kanata, Canada

2014 Cube Gallery, Black & White Group Show, Ottawa, Canada

2013 National Capital Network of Sculptors, Dimensions Show, Ottawa, Canada

2013 Shankman Centre, Orleans, National Capital Network of Sculptors, Ottawa, Canada

2013 City of Ottawa Archives Gallery 112, NCNS Sculpture Show, Ottawa, Canada

2012 National Capital Network of Sculptors, Dimensions Show, Ottawa, Canada

2012 Museum of Nature Sculpture Exhibition, NCNS, Ottawa, Canada

2011 Museum of Nature Sculpture Exhibition, NCNS, Ottawa, Canada

2011 Shankman Centre, Orleans, NCNS Sculpture Display, Ottawa, Canada

2010 National Capital Network of Sculptors, Dimension Show, Ottawa, Canada
2010 Patrick John Mills Contemporary Fine Art Gallery, NCNS, Ottawa, Canada
2009 National Capital Network of Sculptors, Dimensions Show, Ottawa, Canada
2009 AWOL Gallery, Toronto, Canada
2008 National Capital Network of Sculptors, Dimensions Show, Ottawa, Canada
1997 Senza Parole, Art Festival, Toronto, Canada
1996 In Partenza, O.C.A.D. Florence, Italy
1996 O.C.A.D. Gallery, Toronto, Canada
1994 Women's Art Show, Toronto, Canada

AWARDS

2024 Artistic Excellence, Second place winner, Blue Koy Gallery, Figurative Competition
2023 First place Grant prize winner, Fall 2022, Art Show International Gallery, CA, USA
2023 Merit Prize Award, 5th Flower International Juried Art Competition, Art Show International Gallery, CA, USA
2020 Sculpture Award, American Artists Professional League, '92 Grand National Show', NY, USA
2020 Sculpture Award, Allied Artists of America Associate Show, NY, USA
2020 Sculpture Award, 3rd place, American Artists Professional League, 'Favorite Things', USA
2020 Award of Excellence, The Healing Power of Art 2020, The Healing Power of Art & Artists
2019 Finalist of the 14th International ARC Salon Competition, Art Renewal Centre, USA
2019 Award of Excellence, Art that Lifts Our Spirits, The Healing Power of Art & Artists, USA
2019 Honorable Mention, All Women 2019, J.Mane Gallery, USA
2018 Award of Excellence, The Healing Power of Art & Artists, NY, USA
2018 Award of Excellence, Special Feature Artist, Manhattan Arts International, HerStory 2018
2018 First place winner and Grant recipient, Gallery 25N, Faces of Humanity 2018, NY, USA
2018 Award of Excellence, J.Mane Gallery competition, MIND BODY SPIRIT 2018, USA
2018 Award of Excellence, Manhattan Arts International, New Beginnings 2018, NY exhibition,

2017 Winner of the Special Feature Artist of the all-female competition and exhibition 'HERStory', Manhattan Arts International, NY, USA

2017 Award of Excellence, The Figurative 2017 Art Exhibition, Light Space & Time Online Gallery

2016 Winner of 'New Beginnings' competition and exhibition, Manhattan Arts International, NY

2016 Special Feature Artist Award, ArtsyShark, New York, USA

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2024 Signature Member of The American Artists Professional League, NY, USA

2018 - 2024 Associate Member of the National Sculpture Society, New York, NY, USA

2024 Showcase Artist Member of Manhattan Arts International, NY, USA

2023 Associate Member of the Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club, NY, USA

2021 Associate Member of AWA, The American Women Artists, USA

2018 - 2021 Elected Member of the Allied Artists of America, New York City, NY, USA

2018 - 2023 Artist Member of The Healing Power of Art & Artists, NY, USA

2019 - 2020 Artist Member of The Guide Artists Showcase and Magazine

ART PROJECTS

2022 Jury Panelist for Sculpture Category, 6th Edition, Boynes Emerging Artist Award, Australia

2021 Jury Panelist for Sculpture Category, 5th Edition, Boynes Emerging Artist Award, Australia

2021 Public Art Project, Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Bader, Queens University, Kingston, Canada

2020 Orphan portrait series charity project 2020

2019 Jury Panelist for Manhattan Arts International, NYC, All Women Art Exhibition

2019 Commission sculpture of Celtic Goddess Brigid, Ottawa, Canada

2018 Sculpture Commission work, Women Who Work Awards, Embassy of Gabon, Ottawa

2018 Sculpture Commission work, Women Excellence Awards, Embassy of Gabon, Ottawa

2018 Sculpture Commission work, Guinea Excellence Awards, Museum of History, Ottawa

2018 Sculpture Commission work, Native Women's Association of Canada, Ottawa

2017 Sculpture Commission work, Guinea Excellence Awards, Museum of History, Ottawa

2016 Sculpture Awards Commission for the Mandela Legacy & BHM Gala, Ottawa University

2015 Sculpture Awards Commissions, BHM Gala, Ottawa University

2015 Private Sculpture Commission

2014 Sculpture Awards Commissions, BHM Gala, Ottawa University

2014 Private Sculpture Commission

2013 Sculpture Commission work for a public space, Saint Brigid's Centre for the Arts

2013 Sculpture Awards Commissions, BHM Gala, Ottawa University

2012 Private Sculpture Commission, Ottawa

2012 Sculpture Awards Commission, BHM Gala, Ottawa University

2011 Sculpture Awards Commission, created for Ottawa University, Black History Month Gala

2011 Private Sculpture Commission Work, Ottawa

2010 Sculpture Award Commission, Ottawa University, Black History Month Gala

2008 Clay Sculpture Commission of a Youth Medical Patient Simulator, Carleton University - Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Ottawa

1999 Art Commission for a public space, 100 Drawings, Tony Graham Toyota, Ottawa.