

Artist Statement

“Mother and Child”

Henry Moore says “sculpture must have life in it. Creating a vitality and life within a form, gives it meaning and primitive power infused with humanist content.” Conceptually, *Mother and Child* honors a journey of time, connection and bond, from traditional to contemporary, from realistic emotional expression to abstract presentation, from East to West.

For the last decade, I have addressed in my work, the complexity of the multidimensional maternal impact, the central relationship between my mother and myself. Eastern culture and my family education have shaped my (early) life...be humble, be polite, be patient, positive, strive for excellence, remain sincere and courageous, preserve harmony but be sensitive. I have learned and grown from a process of time and culture, and a strong sense of history and values. *Mother and Child* is a connection over space and distance with my mother. It is a measurement in feelings through my own personal experience, presenting movement, energy, love, relation, honesty, and integrity. The energy radiates from the point where the pieces touch. Feelings toward my mother and her devastating illness mesh into one. Negative space and lines are drawn between internal and external emotions. Clay and fire transcend the value of humbleness and express the timeless statement of maternal love.

In my sculptures, the exploration of form, space and lines, have become an outer language to embody my inner feelings. The composition of gestural abstract forms is effected strongly by the spaces between forms. The objective is to draw a rich portrait that is charged with emotional and spiritual vision. It illustrates the reshaping of emotional and psychological connections into a physical assertion that redefines modernism and its visual language, using material in an interdisciplinary way.

Mother and Child is universal in scope. More importantly, it represents values instilled and influenced by notions of matrilineal family education which urges oneself to lead a purposeful and meaningful life and to defy and overcome impossible possibilities. Strengthened by women’s beliefs and a maternal drive to allow inspiration, love and persistence to slip into our lives, it redefines and refines our individual role in society. It also demonstrates how changing circumstances and moving forward to a wider field for gender’s voice and family education within our society and around the globe, shape of our social and artistic values.

Mother and Child not only challenges our understanding about contemporary, post-modernism and what is “current”, as well as, our boundaries and connections within a multi-layered and complex emerging aesthetic that stimulates and awakens our cultural consciousness to the essence of feminism within the rich history of gender roles, but also shifts our notion of modernity and aesthetic modernism toward examining its physicality. Its artistic expression interconnects process and vision, aesthetics and concept, and language of expression to the material - clay. It redefines “ceramics” and its old traditions, offering insight into contemporary, revolutionary, culturally and progressive stages of modern and post-modern perspectives, as well as, reinforces our sense of adaptability, vital to the essence of humanity.