
Artist's Statement

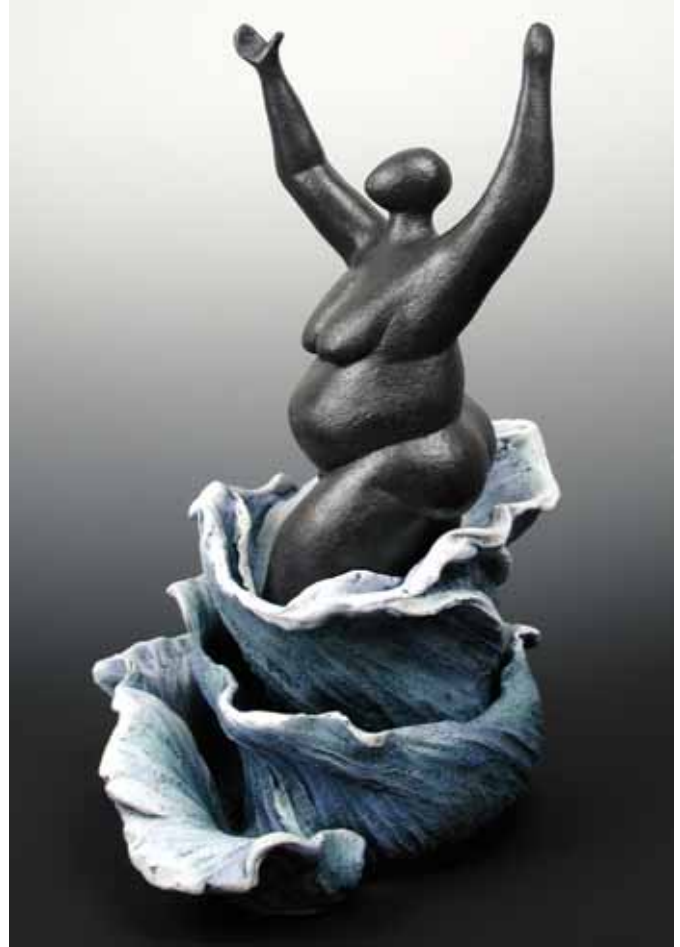
By Terry Whye

I work with a figurative series of sculpture, springing from the realm of the unconscious, the dream world and my exploration of regenerative themes. One of the most potent archetypes from this world I seek to express in clay is the ancient Great Mother in her many guises. The Diver calls me to plunge headfirst into life, stay willing to explore the murky depths and remember to come up for air, rest, and refreshment. The Medial Dreamer connects the waking to the mystery and considers the process of gestation, rest, and renewal so easily dismissed in the frantic pace of modern life.

The Figure in Free Fall plummets willingly through space and calls attention to the states of joy, trust, and surrender. The Abundant Mother beckons me to honor my body, stay grounded and focus on the cyclic rhythms of the natural world. Seated Goddesses shown singly or in groups arranged in circles are gesturing with their hands, often emphasizing the heart area. The ringed groupings reflect my interest and participation in the power and healing benefits of women's circles and communities. The heart gesture echoes the actions of prayer, caring and nurturing. The gift these figures have brought into my waking life and artistic practice is to reclaim what is divine in the feminine cycles of life and to restore mindfulness of the interconnectedness of all things.

The figures are sculpted solidly and then hollowed out, a process I find very satisfying. I love to be on the inside of the sculpture. During the reassembly process, I insert into each figure a group of clay beads in shapes that mirror my intention for the piece. The smaller, hand-held pieces can be shaken like rattles to hear their individual voices. The works are made in a variety of clay bodies and fired in different combinations of kilns, including anagama, gas, and electric.

I invite the viewer to recognize themselves and all women in these figures that represent and celebrate the divine aspects of the feminine and the cycles of the natural world.



Sculpture by Terry Whye, photo by Gregory R. Staley

Terry Whye has been making sculpture and pottery for over three decades, the last 26 years from her Maryland studio, Whye Clay Works. WCW is also a teaching studio and she is on the faculty of the Rehoboth Art League in Delaware. Her work has appeared in *American Craft*, *Ceramic Art and Perception*, and *Ceramic Monthly* magazines. Terry is a recipient of an Artist In Education Grant by MD Arts Council and the Louise Chambers Corkran Award for Sculpture. Terry can be reached at twhyecarr.org and (410) 374-9661.