

# Phyllis Mantik deQuevedo

## Artist Statement



I have always been fascinated with the inner being and the hidden forces that propel us through life. There is a story there and I am drawn to create art to tell that story.

More than skin and bones and our mirrored image, we are complex organisms that exude emotion and intellect. We move, breathe, grow, and change with time and in relation to our environment. Our presence is fleeting and leave an imprint of having been. For this the reason human and botanical forms inspire me. Each contributes a color and vibrancy and I am moved to capture and share those brief moments.

I'm often asked about the process of creating a sculpture. Every sculpture goes through an awkward stage. There is an

excitement and energy as I begin and a restlessness as it nears completion but somewhere in the middle, I wrestle with an armature that isn't working, anatomy that doesn't feel natural or a composition that doesn't flow. Experience tells me I must be brutal enough to fix it or honest enough to set it aside. Then there are those times when I am rewarded in a breakthrough moment in which a sculpture becomes more than I could have originally anticipated. This is what excites me to continue to hone my skills and push my personal boundaries.

My current work explores story telling through metaphor. Instead of trying to sculpt figures and petals -- whether realistic or abstract, I strive to sculpt what it feels like to be human and to convey the unspoken. The reward is in knowing that others can relate to them from their own human experiences.

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