



nicola
PRINSEN

About the Artist

Nicola Prinsen, a Saltspring Island artist, has been sculpting for over 15 years. She first studied ceramics, then figurative and portrait sculpture. For the past five years, Nicola's subject matter has been based on her surroundings, the island on which she lives. Forests, rural agriculture, the ocean, and the animals that live in this setting are Nicola's focus. From otters to cows, crows to goats, in clay or bronze, Nicola explores the forms of these animals and undertakes a process of refinement by way of detailed studies and accurate depictions. Pushing the boundaries with these forms through distortion and exaggeration are part of Nicola's creative process. The end result is a fusion of personality and simplicity. One cow will stand with a look, a shape or an angle that seems precarious and impossible. Another is rendered accurately, showing the skill of the artist. Nicola's goal is to simplify the form but never leave any doubt as to the identity of the particular animal. There is tension and serenity in this approach. It is veiled in humour, yet the longer one looks the more one realizes that the artist herself is serious.

Prinsen works from her studio on Salt Spring Island. Over the past 22 years her experience in clay includes wheel thrown pottery, stoneware, raku and sculpture both figurative and animal. Her formal training started in 1979 at the ceramics department of the University of Alberta where she studied under Noboru Kubo and Jack Forbes. Her sense of humor finds its way into her unique hand painted fired clay sculptures.

Nicola has served as a director for the Delta Arts Council and Arts Alive Committee Member for the South West Regional Arts Council.

Education

2000

Portrait Sculpture - Morag McLean - Vancouver Academy of Art Selected Exhibitions & Collections

1999

Photo images on clay - Mechosin International Summer School - Andrew Wong



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1998

Vancouver Academy of Art - Mold Making -Vernon Gemmell-Smith

1997

Sculpture Figurative - Bill Porteous

1996

Casting, Clay Relief - Santo Mignosa.
'Identity 96' - Regional Juried show

1995

Delta Arts Council - Exhibition by Gallery Artists
'Identity 95' Delta, B.C. Regional Juried Exhibit

1979-1983 Ceramic Department, University of Alberta

Selected Exhibitions & Collections

2000

Peace Arch PARK International Sculpture Exhibit, Awarded "People's Favourite"
Art in the Country, Ladner, BC
Morgan Dawne Gallery, North Vancouver

1999

British Columbia Institute of Technology Downtown Campus
East Side Cultural Crawl, 1000 Parker
Morgan Dawne Gallery, North Vancouver
Group show Vancouver Academy of Art
Commission, Tile for Heritage Home BC Parks and Recreation, Delta, BC

1998

Delta Municipal Hall, Regional Art Show
Art in the Garden, Tsawassen, BC
British Columbia Institute of Technology Downtown Campus

1997

Art Business Tsawassen, BC
"Identity 97", Richmond Art Gallery
Port Moody Arts Centre
Delta Municipal Hall, Delta Art Council

1996

Wayne Sayer Clayworks Gallery
Exhibition By Gallery Artists- Raymond Chow Lithograph Ltd.
West Coast Sculpture Association, Art Resource Centre, Shadbolt Centre Burnaby, BC
'Identity 96' - Regional Juried show
'Arts 96' - Surrey Art Gallery
'From Earth to Water' - The Port Moody Arts Centre



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1995

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Prinsen's work is in private collections across Canada, the USA, Germany, Holland, and Grand Cayman Islands.

Articles

Magazin Art: Fall 2005

Peace Arch News: November 2004

Preview Gallery Guide: Winter 2004



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