



Holly Fischer

SCULPTURE STATEMENT

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My work explores notions of femininity, sensuality, and beauty – concepts that are inherently visually seductive but simultaneously contain pejorative undertones. Depictions of the female form dominate our social landscape; however, stereotypical descriptions of femininity are frequently negative. Paradoxically, women struggle to navigate cultural reverence for beauty and sexuality while those same traits are often reviled as superficial and manipulative. I am intrigued by the complex disparity between emotional and intellectual responses to femininity that polarize what it means to be a woman.

My forms allude to mythological female archetypes and reference the rich history of classical and baroque figurative sculpture. These representations of femininity are ubiquitous and have become romanticized ideals in our collective unconscious. Current cultural standards of female perfection manipulated by beauty, fashion, and sex industries thrive on artifice and unattainability. These campaigns are provocatively successful at shaping perception and desire. My work reflects the urge to reconcile the conflict of identification with glorified depictions of beauty from disrupted expectations when sexual icons prove to be illusion and fantasy.

Sensual abstraction and the interplay of positive form and negative space become visual metaphors for deconstructed binary pairs explored in my work: seduction and repulsion, illusion and reality, objectification and empowerment. My goal is to imbue my sculptures with iconic feminine attributes, sampling from both villains and heroines from fairytales, history, and contemporary society. To convey the duality of these archetypal women - admired but feared, innocent yet guilty, perfect but flawed - I slice open my forms, expose provocative visceral folds, and reveal their hidden secrets. The figures continue to seduce with their beautiful and undulating curves, but the viewer is also given access to peer beneath the surface and contemplate the potential polarity of desire. I hope this subtle tension encourages viewers to confront personal beliefs and assumptions regarding beauty, sexuality, and characterizations of femininity.