

Lisa Reinertson
Artist Statement

During this time of Covid isolation, I started paying closer attention to the environment within walking distance from my home. I live close to the waterfront in Benicia. I got myself a kayak. The birds of the bay, the sky and clouds, the shoreline where the rocks and waters meet; the water and sky meets, all began to show their mystery and beauty to me more than before. I pulled out paper and pastels and began observing more closely. The cormorant demanding autonomy of power and grace...how the water and shore-stones and marsh grasses are ever mingling and caressing. And the sky. The clouds' ease of ever-changing, stunning beauty inspired me. These are a few of my observations as works on paper.

REINERTSON BIO / CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Lisa Reinertson is known for both life size figurative ceramic sculptures and large-scale public sculptures cast in bronze. Her work ranges in content from semi-autobiographical female figures with animals in clay to historic bronze monumental portraits of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez, immersed in narrative bas-relief imagery. The underlying presence of her work is an expression of humanist compassion. In viewing her work, we are witness to concerns of feminism, peace and social justice as they intertwine with nature and our relationship to creatures with which we share the earth. Reinertson's expressive use of the clay medium creates sculptures that capture her nuanced observation of life forms and empathetic observations of life issues. Her work combines a realism rooted in figurative art traditions with a contemporary expression of social and psychological content.

Lisa completed her MFA at UC Davis in 1984, studying with Robert Arneson and Manuel Neri at the legendary TB-9 studio. She has taught at several universities, primarily across California, including the San Francisco Art Institute, UC Berkeley, CSU Chico, and Santa Clara University.

Reinertson's ceramic work has been exhibited at museums both nationally and internationally, including the Crocker Art Museum, the American Museum of Ceramic Art, the California Crafts Museum, the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, the National Museum of Ceramic Art, Maryland, Museo Internazionale della Ceramica, Faenza, Italy, the Oakland Museum of California, and Southern Exposure Gallery in San Francisco. Recent exhibitions include her one-person show, "Edge of Extinction" at the Pence Gallery in Davis, and a retrospective of her works in, "Large As Life" at the American Museum of Ceramic Art. Reinertson recently curated the traveling exhibition "Bay Area Clay/A Legacy of Social Consciousness".

Reinertson has completed over 20 public commissions in bronze including Martin Luther King Memorial sculptures in Kalamazoo, MI, Riverside, CA and the King Hall Law School at UC Davis, a Cesar Chavez Memorial in Downtown Sacramento, and the recent "Neptune's Daughter" in Benicia, CA. Her public commissions can also be seen in San Jose, San Francisco, Vacaville, UC Davis, Santa Clara University, Palm Desert and Guam.

Lisa continues to develop new works out of her studio in Benicia, Ca. Her most recent series is an active contemplation and depiction of the human cost of the U.S. border crisis, shown in her exhibition, "Borderlands" at Epperson Gallery in 2020. Reinertson also continues to lead sculpture workshops in the US, Mexico and Italy and will be returning to teach at La Meridiana, Tuscany in 2022.