

## Artist Statement

Historically my art revolved around social issues such as the tensions and juxtapositions found in contemporary society. These works focused on the dynamics of loss and brokenness while simultaneously alluding to the hope of wholeness. Using life-sized ceramic baby casts as metaphors, I attempted to voice a universal vulnerability and fragility of life, whether this is perceived to be in the form of abusive relationships or in physical, emotional or spiritual vulnerability. In 2009 I won the Ekurhuleni Thami Mynele Sculpture award for a work called "*Sleeping Beauties ... Lala Kahle*". It reflected loss and those hopes and dreams that have been discarded. I placed 30 casts and partially broken ceramic babies in a clear Perspex coffin, referencing the fairytale story of '*Sleeping Beauty*'. The small sculptural work of broken fragments and charred remains of cast dolls (babies) references the same theme of lives lost in shack fires and the impact of informal housing. Today, in our violent society, women and children need a restoration of hope to dream yet again.

At present I am working on a theme called "*Shaped by Your Words.*" The phrase references our ability to shape the world around us by the use of positive or negative words. There is a scripture that reads "In the beginning was the Word ..." (John 1:1), so this theme also refers to the creative power of God's Word from which I have shaped a relief sculpture. Science has shown that similarly to people, both plants and water respond to kind words that in turn influence the atmosphere around them. Given that words are creative, caution is needed as to what we speak over ourselves as women, as well as over our families and nations. With our words we can build our worlds or tear them down and destroy them - after all "life and death is in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21).

So often broken vessels are regarded as useless and are thrown away. However, the Japanese have an ancient art of gluing together a broken vessel and filling the cracks

with gold, which not only visibilises the adjoined elements, but renders the newly formed vessel more valuable than before. This method of repair is called “*Kintsugi*”. This method seems to me to be a metaphor for women who may have been broken or traumatized by abuse in whatever form, which nevertheless does not render them less valuable but in fact more so, as through their experiences they can often bring empathy, wisdom and understanding. Surely like Queen Ester “we are born for such a time as this” - a time for women collectively to speak truth, love, peace and hope. Can we be those who speak life into all circumstances? This is the dichotomy that I am investigating.”

## **Biography**

Patricia Jackson has lived in Johannesburg for the duration of her life and finds relevance in a quote by Fauvist artist Henri Matisse that reads, “Creativity takes courage. Creativity is contagious. Pass it on.”

## **Education**

After matriculating at Parktown Girls' High, Patricia Jackson went on to study Fine Arts at the University of Witwatersrand, where for three years, she was privileged to count Cecily Sash, Erica Berry, Judith Mason and Robert Hodgins amongst her teachers. BAfter having enjoyed a long family-orientated sabbatical, Jackson completed her B.A.F.A. degree through UNISA in 1996. Jackson then returned to Wits to do a two-year post graduate Advanced Diploma in Fine Arts, finishing in 1998 under Karel Nel and Clive van den Berg. In 2009 Jackson completed a two-year Art Educators Advanced Diploma through UNISA under the guidance of Emma Williamse and Koos van der Walt. Jackson was accepted for her Masters but reluctantly had to resign that same year, facing unexpected challenging circumstances. In between her

academic studies Jackson did Ceramic Science and sculpture part-time at the Technikon, in addition to pottery with Wilma Cruise, among others. More recently Jackson studied printmaking under master printer Colin Cole; and continues to enjoy workshops with Carl Jeppe, Diane Victor, Martjie Carter and Douw van Heerden.

### **Exhibition History**

Patricia Jackson has participated in numerous exhibitions around the country such as New Signatures' Thami Mynele where she won the Sculpture Award in 2010' Upstairs at Bamboo, KKNK Absa, Artist Proof Studio at Sandton Gallery, the Fried Gallery, and the Rotary Art Festival at Hyde Park. Jacksons works can be found in South African homes, as well as in Cameroon and the United States of America.