

HANNEKE BEAUMONT

BOWMAN SCULPTURE

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Timeless Expressions of the Human Condition

At first glance, Hanneke Beaumont's sculptures are eye-catching, monumental human figures in terracotta, bronze or iron. However, as the Dutch-born sculptor would attest, their true meaning and inspiration is found far deeper beneath these raw and natural surfaces.

The content of Hanneke's sculptures extends beyond the perceived importance of easily digestible features and themes. Her work allows for a universal approach to humanity's psychological condition of a constant battle between self-doubt and confidence, contentment and yearning, strength and fragility, contemplation and detachment.

The inner dimension of the sculpture is essential to my work. I represent the human being, regardless of where he's from, who he is or what he does. I believe some feelings are universal to mankind and wish to express these.

- Hanneke Beaumont

Hanneke has always allowed us to create personal connections with her sculptures by removing the markings of gender, age and time and leaving the majority of her works untitled. Instead, she leaves behind "universal human feelings, like courage or melancholy" in their postures and subtle facial expressions. The latter are barely discernible at first glance, yet have been carefully formed during Hanneke's meticulous process.

This process is as compelling as the work it produces. Hanneke possesses an inimitable ability to craft large-scale hollow figures out of earth and fire, perpetually patient as she brings these figures to life. However, to achieve life, this artistic process must be more meaningful than simply shaping recognisable features. For Hanneke, it is a quest to express humanity's psychological and emotional complexities.

I am a clay person; it is my preferred medium. It is strong and fragile at the same time and therefore expresses best what I am trying to say. It also never stops surprising me.

- Hanneke Beaumont

Each figure is extremely intimate for this artist who chooses to work solely from her own thoughts and emotions instead of live models. It's no surprise then that Hanneke wishes for us to experience our own intimacy with these pieces as we explore their intricate psychologies. Eventually, as we look longer and closer, the gap between a figure's inner turbulence and our own individual life experiences begins to close.

In today's world, where we are routinely forced into superficial encounters, Hanneke's work is an entrancing submersion in human sensibilities. She prompts us to engage, reflect and connect with sculpture during a genuinely personal and introspective experience. The importance of her work continues to be recognised around the world with monumental public installations and various retrospectives at esteemed museums.

It is with great pleasure that we introduce you to this exhibition of selected works by Hanneke Beaumont at Bowman Sculpture. We hope that you will find cause to look closer, delve within and create your own enduring connection with these masterful sculptures.

