

MARIA WICKWIRE



Statement

I invite viewers here to share my musings about our connection to nature and to the heartbreaking effects of our human nature on the world we inhabit.

This new body of work springs from an internal conversation that has taken on new intensity during recent months, when sheltering in place makes forays to the natural world feel even more precious. Between a pandemic, social unrest, and fires raging all around us, we humans are experiencing a taste of what it's like to be endangered. For me, engaging with these pieces as they emerge from my hands acts as an antidote to the many forms of frightening alienation we all face. At its heart, this work is a celebration of our Mother Nature and her willingness to regrow and nurture our spirits.

Bio

Maria Wickwire's creative journey began with her earliest childhood play. Growing up, she was surrounded by people who quietly infused daily work with creativity, whether it was in her grandfathers' gardens and storytelling, her grandmothers' intricate needlework and cooking the daily meals, or her parents' senses of humor. A creative life was not something separate; it was just how you did whatever you did. Perhaps that is why one of Maria's favorite quotations is, "How you do anything is how you do everything."

Maria's figures and the tales they come to tell seem to "write themselves" into being. Maria works intuitively and trusts the clay to tell her what it wants to be. She follows the call, discovering: universal stories through the process.

When asked why she doesn't make bronzes, so she can "have lots of copies" of her pieces, Maria responds that each of her pieces represents a unique journey and learning experience. The process is the important thing and she is ready to move on to the next discovery. The sculptures, too, are ready to move out into the world to stand on their own and share their wisdom with those who encounter them. Viewers often have differing interpretations of her work, but that simply adds patina to the pieces, as far as Maria is concerned. She creates from a deep place inside and only hopes her work will touch others deeply as well.