

Bronze sculptor re-creates stories of mythology

CHRIS LEE, Special to The IFP

05/19/06 00:00:00

Rockwood sculptor Candice Raquel Lee is exhibiting several works in bronze at the Main Street Inn (126 Main Street South), Georgetown, now through the end of May. The sculptures are showing along with a number of paintings by regional artists.

Lee, who has been sculpting since childhood, re-imagines the timeless stories of mythology from a contemporary perspective.

"In my sculpture, I aim to capture a single moment that distils the essence of a story," she says, "a photographic moment that is eye-catching and arresting, disturbing, memorable, and above all beautiful."

Based on Greek myth, Arachne: Metamorphosis freezes the instant when a young woman is transformed into a spider, while Iris: Goddess of the Rainbow depicts a gold-skinned beauty casually assuming a contortionist's backbend.

"As an arch-one of the strongest structural shapes-Iris flexes easily to the limit of physical possibility but doesn't break," Lee observes, "just as women bend under the load of great responsibilities with unbreaking strength."

The Main Street Inn's proprietors, Brian Flood and Sharon Leal, have supported the visual arts in Georgetown and surrounding areas for the past year with rotating gallery exhibitions throughout the building's dining area and lobby. While feasting their eyes on fine art, dinner guests can enjoy sophisticated fare created by chef Tobias Pohl-Weary.

"I find that the dining experience is quite conducive to showing art," Flood observes, "Potential buyers can sit and look at the works for a longer period of time than they would have in a walk-through gallery. They can have dinner in a home environment and live with the art for a time. I am delighted to present Candice's bronzes as the first sculptures we have shown here."

If the Main Street Inn has made new contributions to art in Georgetown, Artcast, where Lee turns her sculptures into bronze, has been a fixture in the community for over 40 years. The company on Armstrong Avenue is one of only a handful of art foundries in Canada, working with sculptors across the country to produce bronzes ranging from small tabletop pieces to those of monumental size.

"We like working with local sculptors like Candice who can be deeply involved in the entire casting process," says Marcus Knoespel, Artcast's production manager, "We also enjoy learning the story behind each of her pieces, which really causes one to look more closely at the art."

Lee's works are created through the complex "lost wax process," which involves making a rubber mould from an original, then using the mould to make a wax copy which is coated in a ceramic shell and later melted out, replaced by the molten bronze that forms the final sculpture.

Lee's sculptures can be viewed at the Inn Wednesdays through Sundays and on-line at www.candiceraquel.com.