



Spring 2012 *Healing Arts* Art Exhibition at Homestead Correctional Institution

Inspired by the exuberant, voluptuous Nana sculptures of artist Niki de Saint Phalle, which celebrate femininity through their monumental size, vibrant color and curvaceous form, our class created the "Banats." We investigated the meaning of color, surreal exaggeration of the body, and curvilinear movement before beginning to sculpt using just masking tape and newspaper. The class created armatures, then added bulk to the form, and finally created a protective "skin" using tape and tempera paint. Each artist named their piece and wrote about how she came to embody qualities which women need to flourish. Like our class, each sculpture emerged fully unique in appearance and personality.



Sasha



Madame Butterfly



Edith



Dizzy Lizzy



Opal Oppenheimer

SASHA...

She represents the strength, intelligent power and allure of women. The colors worn are soft but bold and sassy—she's saying women can be and do anything. She's screaming respect.

-Nikeysha

MADAM BUTTERFLY...

She is full of heartfelt thoughts in her foundation, which happens to be the key to her light spirit and happy essence. Madam Butterfly has her own unique features and is like no one else. She keeps a shocking blue hue to stand apart from her surroundings. Her eyes are dimensional and objects appear close and in degree. Her upper body is trim for aerodynamics and brings her the exact places she wishes to go. When creating Madam Butterfly I became frustrated with her because she is marked distinctly and whether you appreciate her or not, she is who she has become.

-Tyra

EDITH...

Edith is a woman of many talents. Edith like bold, bright colors. She has an orange and yellow shirt, gives her, her sunny positive perspective on life. Edith is strong, and positive. Edith has a peaceful, loving personality. She looks for the positive in life. Edith guards her heart because it has been wounded, and is now healed and at peace.

-Betty

DIZZY LIZZY...

As a growing character, she is one with nature. Her solid trunk-like base keeps her grounded. As she grows, she adds to her many vibrant, colorful layers like an intricate flower in bloom. Her arms and legs are spiraling extensions of her carefree disposition as she dances to the music of life. Dizzy Lizzy doesn't take life too seriously because she knows that despite all of the spiraling (either up or down) it's a growing experience.

-Amanda

OPAL OPPENHEIMER...

Opal is vivid in her outlook and open to new ideas and experiences. She holds her arms open to embrace the lessons she expects to learn. Opal's legs are in lotus position to symbolize her yearning for enlightenment. She has bright colors bordered with bold dark lines because she is an optimist despite trials and tribulations. Opal wears proof of all of her experiences in harmony and balance.

-Ashley

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