



*Sacred
Woman*

Sculptures by
Shona Nunan

Harvest Goddess
2021
bronze
edition 1 of 8
157 x 46 x 43 cm



Venus
2021
bronze
edition 1 of 8



Ancestor – Woman

2020

plaster for bronze and/or marble



Nunan's 'Torso' with its cross like form, has the power of understated simplicity and is the essence of Woman. Open and embracing, the arms wide, there is enormous strength in the dual equal forms of the body meeting vertically with the horizontal arms, a sense of 'I am' and an uncompromising message of a woman's mark in life .

Torso

2010

bronze edition 4 of 8

edition , In collection of Hamilton Regional Gallery, Victoria, Australia

marble edition sold

48.5 x 62 x 9 cm



Warrior Shield
2021
bronze
edition 1 of 3
244 x 74 x 46 cm



“The ‘Earth Guardian’ has come to me from shields, from leaves, from feathers. Her colour is the reddy brown tones of soil. I love this gentle feminine form that rises from the earth, barely touching it, yet her cloak-like shield is encompassing and incorporating the rhythms of the life that flow like a river around her inner body. Her inner body comes inspired from a beautiful twig I found with the seed pods stuck to the surface, like symbols of fertility and abundance.”

Earth Guardian
2015
bronze
edition 1 of 3
206 x 76 x 24 cm



Nunan's amphora series were an early attestation to the abundant power of womanhood and its cyclic messages of fertility and alternating emptiness, like a vessel.

This sculpture of 'Earth Guardian', in the mode of Nunan's amphora series, has also a sense of a leaning ancient column with its simplicity of form and elongated protective presence.

Earth Guardian
1999
Bronze unique cast
236 x 30 x 30 cm



'Sentinel' is a strong woman form standing on guard. She comes inspired by the ancient sword, the hilt with its ornate guard and pommel becoming her body and the blade, the graceful length of her legs. In a two dimensional way the sword figure relates to Nunan's vessel series of women forms. The simple strength of the lines in the sword and the lovely swirl of the guards have enriched the language of her woman forms as guardians and sentinels.

Sentinel
2016
bronze
edition I of 6
181 x 48 x 30



'Harvest' comes from Nunan's Woman series representing the 'earth mother' and her cycles. These Harvest figures are symbolic women forms balancing trays or vessels on their heads holding the gifts or the burdens of life, according to the 'season'.

This 'Harvest' woman carries a vessel and a shield that is inscribed with the spiral of life's journey. She represents the protector of the earth journey.

Harvest
2016
bronze
edition I of 6
191 x 43 x 18



Sacred Woman
1994
bronze, unique cast
32 x 18 x 18 cm



Temple
1996
Bronze on marble
Unique cast
23 x 21 x 21 cm



Dance comes from a story told by a wonderful Camaroon woman we met when we were traveling in China. In her home village, when a woman was beaten by her husband, or lost her child, or any other intolerable emotions she was enduring, her women friends would gather around her and tell her not to cry tonight, wait for tomorrow, tonight we dance. And they would dance all night till her strength came back to her spirit. In the morning it was all easier to bear. This is the woman's dance.

Dance
2009
bronze
edition 2 of 8
49 x 18 x 10 cm



The abundant forms of womanhood.

She came inspired from a beautiful twig found in the bush.

There were seed pods attached to the stick and I thought it was a woman in gentle reflection of her beautiful self.

Serenity

2000

bronze edition 6 of 8

44 x 11 x 6 cm



Triptych
1999
bronze edition of 3
128 x 150 x 26 cm





Guardians on the Hill
1994
bronze, unique
32 x 22 x 18 cm



Guardians on the Hill
1994
bronze, unique
20 x 21 x 15 cm

She is reminiscent of the women waiting by the sea for the fishermen to return. She carries the boat-like tray on her head, waiting for the gifts or the losses from the sea that day. She belongs to my Harvest series.

Her form is like an amphora. She is also inspired by the stories of old Italy, those gracious women in their long skirts hitched up as they laboured in the fields or on the seashore, carrying great loads on their heads.

Woman by the Sea
2005
bronze edition 2 of 8
88 x 32 x 12 cm



Mother
2002-2003
bronze ed 5 of 6
169 x 51 x 22 cm



Mother
1998
bronze
edition 5 of 6
55 x 17 x 5 cm



Bather
2010
bronze edition 2 of 8
104 x 31 x 21 cm



Chrysalis comes from a period when we had many young acrobats from Cirque du Soleil in our life, bouncing around us at our arts festival in Bagni di Lucca. Acrobats have a limited working life due to the huge stresses on their body. This is the moment when one of them is no longer able to work as the athlete she was. It is the moment when she must transform, reinvent herself. She feels bound and restricted while she seeks answers to her next road. Chrysalis is a metaphor for life when we must transform ourselves to become even greater, even more beautiful, more courageous than we were before.

Chrysalis
2014
bronze 1 of 8
201 x 32 x 32 cm



'African Head' is one of the pieces I created in my studio in Ortonovo in Italy in 1984, in the hills above Carrara. I was twenty four, a new mother, not long out of college, and this was my declaration to the world that I was an artist. Going to Italy to create in the mountains of Michaelangelo became one of the first great commitments of my life. I had a studio in the upstairs room of the tiny house we rented, our baby went to creche and Michael carved marble in Carrara. I was inspired by amazing trips to Florence and Pisa. On one of our trips we saw an African exhibition where a beautiful Nigerian head influenced this sculpture. I loved the carved dots in the head to represent hair, the serene beauty, simplicity and elegance. The original of this sculpture in plaster was too fragile to mould as I wanted to retain it in its original form. So I did a second state of this sculpture years later in response to enquiries made of it.

African Head
1984
bronze edition of 8 (second state)
76 x 25 x 14 cm



Pure innocent youth emerging like a bud into life, ready to unfurl into a flower.

Flower
2014
bronze
edition of 8
92 x 10 x 9 cm



Meditation is a young woman's internal connection to herself and her baby.
Her gaze stays inward, nourishing and nurturing the inner child, feeling beauty, her
emotions soft and extra sensitive, the rhythm of life changed.

Meditation
1995
Bronze, edition 3 of 9
166 x 31 x 34



Devotee
2003
bronze ed 3 of 8
192 x 52 x 20 cm



Acolyte
2000-2001
bronze edition 3 of 3
167 x 52 x 20 cm



Bridge Guardian
2004-2005
bronze edition 2 of 8
96 x 48 x 14 cm



Woman in the Field

2005

Bronze 2/8

81 x 32 x 15 cm



Cairo
2005
bronze edition of 2/8
104 x 45 x 15 cm



Harvest series
2010-2011
bronze edition 1 of 8
120 x 41 x 20 cm



Harvest series
2010-2011
bronze, edition 1 of 8
approx. 120 cm high



She is from a group of sculptures I created in 1988 while I was pregnant with our youngest son. I feel this group of works ,which included 'Horse' 'Study of a young Man', 'Young Boy' and 'Young girl, was an important stage in my development as an artist. I did these works directly in plaster and cast them in bronze for an exhibition at Holdsworth Galleries in Woollahra, Sydney.

Woman Torso
1988
Bronze, Edition of 6
101 x 21 x 17 cm



1984

She is precious to me. She is perhaps myself as a young girl, finding herself pregnant. I also felt at the time that she represented the burgeoning creativity in me as I fixed my determination to be an artist. I created her in Ortonovo in Italy in 1984 in the upstairs room of our little house. My dream was to cast her in bronze, and one day we ventured to Pietrasanta where the great foundries were. I had only the courage to peer in the doors then because I had no money then to spare. She was cast in bronze a few years later in Melbourne and was my first significant bronze.

€40,000

Pregnant Girl
1984
Bronze edition 6 of 6
first bronze cast by Shona
150 x 37 x 37 cm



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