

COAXING BEAUTY

The Sculptures of Christina Bertsos

By Aaron R. Fodiman
Photography by Jessica McKnight



*Her alabaster Hele'ne hearkens back to the ideal beauty of
Greek mythology's Helen of Troy.*



Listening, a soapstone sculpture on a black granite base, is Christina's ode to stillness.



Sculptor Christina Bertsof of Dunedin was inspired by the universal desire of connection in Embrace.

Christina Bertsof has the soul of an artist. Since the age of 5, when she began drawing, art has been her passion. Growing up in Chicago, she studied at the city's School of the Art Institute before moving to New York to join the honors program at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Along with her degree in fashion design, she also graduated with honors from Loyola University in Chicago.

Now living in Dunedin, she found herself drawn to sculpture eight years ago after working primarily with paint for many years. She experimented with stone at George Wagner's former studio and developed her skills while being guided and coached by other artists working there. Each piece became a journey, where she would use different tools and

types of stone. Soon she discovered that the stones somehow began to "talk" to her. She found them to be inherently beautiful, waiting for her to release their underlying form as she coaxed their natural beauty out by eliminating anything she believed should be removed.

Her work is multifaceted and fluid, seeking to be touched. The style of each piece is determined by what she sees in her mind when she begins to chip away the extraneous. Despite being stationary, the pieces move, not literally, but rather in harmony with the viewer's eyes. They create an emotional bond with the viewer, who experiences the subtle curves and gentle flow of these rock hard objects that at times seem to be soft and pliable. ▶



Christina Bertso's 'Wild and Free' was a 1st place winner at the Dunedin Fine Art Center show in 2017 and is made from Persian Red travertine.



'Her River Runs Freely' was inspired by Mother Earth's ability to receive and accept all that is placed upon her.



In Icarus, she was inspired by the Greek myth as she worked on this combination of honeycomb calcite, green marble and white alabaster.



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Christina says she finds inspiration in everything from the classical form of ancient Greece and other cultures to the work of the abstract expressionists of modern times. She pours her love for beauty into her works, finding something new and different in each piece. Her work is a chance to experience what she finds in these pieces of stone. Her visions are symbolic, mystical and natural as they meld into works of art that are both beautiful and transformative. It is art from within, some say it is the stone, some say it is Christina, and probably, both are correct. ■■■

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