

Setha Low

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by Pat Rogers

My artwork takes a critical view of social, political and cultural issues focusing on women and their struggles. In my work, I employ both abstract and figurative representations to evoke different emotional responses. I understand art as a special form of communication that affects another person directly and non-verbally through the encounter with the art object. For example, I deconstruct the ideal of the perfect woman by unwrapping her to show other possibilities, or depict women dreaming of other lives or swimming to a new adventure. Many of my pieces draw upon my experiences as an anthropologist working in other cultures where survival is tenuous but may also be lyrical and inspiring. Having engaged subjects as diverse as disco dancing, indigenous tattooing or hunger in Africa, my work reframes everyday womanhood by placing it in new situations, covering it with unfamiliar signs and capturing the movement of life in dynamic figures. .Much of my art was conceived as a way to bring my experiences as an anthropologist to artistic and political expression.

While I use a variety of materials and processes in each project, the meta-methodology is consistent. I work quickly to capture feelings and other primary processes directing my energy into the material, which is often clay, metal mesh, paper or plaster. While the subject matter of each body of work determines the materials and its form, I prefer materials that I can manipulate intuitively and that reflect the intensity of my handling of the materials as I work. Each project often consists of multiple works on specific themes and meanings. As I produce the pieces new areas of interest arise and lead to the next body of work.

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"The Girls" by Setha Low.



"Unwrapped" by Setha Low.



"White Flayed Woman" by Setha Low.



"Boy Soldier" by Setha Low.



"Broken Grid" by Setha Low. Raku, 24 x 15 x 5 inches.



"Etched Eggs" by Setha Low.