



Portrait of the Artist

Name: Ruth Moilliet

Lives in: Holcombe Brook, Lancs.

When and how did you get into art?

I have always been interested in art and enjoyed it when I was young and all through school. Although I didn't go on to study art straight from school I had always had a yearning to do so and decided to attend a Foundation course at Manchester Metropolitan University in 1996. This gave me the opportunity to try a wide range of techniques available to an artist and helped me decide the best way for me to work. I went on to study Fine Art sculpture graduating in 2000 and then did an MA in Art as Environment for a couple of years after that. Since graduating I have worked as a sculptor producing commissions for private and commercial clients and also specific exhibitions. All my artworks are limited editions and feature in corporate, institutional and private collections both internationally and across the UK.

What are your influences?

Nature and the natural environment are the predominant influences on my work. My art education when I was younger involved a lot of still life painting and attention to fine detail, the subject often being natural objects. When I was studying my degree I rediscovered my love of nature and was particularly inspired by plants and flowers and the intricacies of each species structure and the forms within them. I am also interested in scale and how it can effect our interpretation of and interaction with a piece of work. Many of my sculptures and installations are deliberately enlarged so the viewer has the feeling of being dwarfed by the work.

What is your subject matter?

The majority of my work is based on plants and flowers. I am particularly interested in the structure and make-up of plants but also how this affects the lifecycle of the specific plant I am studying. I am fascinated by the wealth of forms that can be found in the commonest of flowers that we often see but overlook and don't appreciate. I often dissect and study plants under the microscope. By doing this I discover what is often overlooked by us in the everyday, the many forms that are present within a single flower, furthermore I gain an understanding of the vital structures that enable the ongoing reproduction of the plant. Plants are the longest living organisms on our planet and their continual ability to survive and adapt is something I will marvel at and draw inspiration from for a long time to come.

How would you describe your style?

I principally work in metal but will often combine other materials or processes to reflect what I have learnt and discovered about a particular plant I am studying. As I see nature as being engineered and designed I like to reflect this in my work by using processes such as laser cutting, welding, specialised polishing and colouring and will bolt pieces together to show how I have reassembled the forms that I have discovered within a particular plant or flower. The materials I use reflect the contradiction between the apparent delicacy of these flowers and the plants ability to sustain existence.

What are your future plans?

In my current research I am looking at the evolution and co-evolution of plants and have been designing work inspired by this. I am particularly excited by this research as current feeling for our environment is often and rightfully negative but the planet's ability to renew and rejuvenate itself is astounding and co-evolution plays a significant part in this. I will be continuing to show in a range of exhibitions and working on commissions.

Contact details:

Web: www.ruthmoilliet.com
Tel: 07973 908839
E-mail: sculpture@ruthmoilliet.com

