

## ROBERTA CORY

### Artist's Statement

I received an AB in Art from the University of California, Davis, where I studied with Wayne Thiebaud, Robert Arneson, and William Wiley. Course work covered figure drawing, ceramics, sculpture, painting, art history, architectural history, and art theory. During my fifth year I took courses towards a secondary teaching credential while doing graduate work in Philosophy leading towards a Masters degree in Aesthetics. Marriage, four years teaching high school art, motherhood, and substitute teaching occupied all my time until I returned to graduate school at California State University, Chico. There I crafted an interdisciplinary Masters degree with courses in Sculpture and Continental Philosophy. I designed a curriculum for 6th grade students to foster creative thinking which was based upon my interpretation of the writings of the German philosopher, Martin Heidegger. After one year of university teaching I rented studio space downtown and began my art career. This was interrupted when my then husband developed cancer.

I have been creative all my life. I designed and participated in the building of my passive solar home in California, I took shop courses and built furniture for my home, I studied stage craft and painted sets for the theatre, and for many years I shared my art resources and knowledge with teens as a volunteer.

I maintained a studio in London, Ontario from 1999-2005. In late 2005 I moved to Victoria to be closer to my family. In Victoria I shared my experience as a participant in the London Artists Studio Tour, initiating the Vic West Art Quest, held every year on Mothers' Day weekend. In September 2010 I moved back to London, remodelled a house in Wortley Village, and set up a new studio.

For the last ten years my artwork has been about architecture, in London and in Victoria. Of the forty-five works I have sold, several were commissions and many are in private collections. My largest piece, of St. Paul's Cathedral, in London, Ontario, made in three parts, was commissioned by Bishop Howe for the board room of the Southern Diocese of the Anglican churches of Southwestern Ontario, where it can be viewed by the public.

I am interested in the juxtaposition of differing sensibilities in the built environment. The tensions and commonalities that arise from a lack of top down city planning register the awkwardness of growth and record the imaginations and economic realities that converged in the design of each building. At ground level I am interested in suburban sprawl, inner city redevelopment, and abandoned monuments from an agricultural past. From the air I am interested in the marks and scars left by humans on natural systems and geographies.

My mixed media constructions vary from low relief to textured paintings. Whenever possible I try to recycle cultural waste into my work instead of consuming new materials. I reject the rectangular format, which symbolizes a "view" of the world, and substitute a "piece" or "sample" of the world. My work plays with the tension between bodily knowledge in the presence of a three dimensional object and visual knowledge from two dimensional techniques which create the illusion of space.

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