



CHIEF

ARTIST: ANITA FUNSTON

LOCATION: HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

ARTIST STATEMENT

Tattoos are part of our culture. They are also a strong part of the Polynesian culture. During my research, I came across images of an attractive man with gorgeous thick wavy hair. Chief Juan Tepano, in 1880, was adorned with tattoos on his face and neck. He was the inspiration for this soda wood fired sculpture. Incorporated in the carving of Chief are references to healed scarification. It was widely used amongst dark-skinned people where tattooing wasn't visually effective. The scarification developed into powerful and sensual body modification used by tribes from Papua New Guinea, Australia, and Ethiopia. The aesthetic outcome was unique to the artist, healing, and genetics of the wearer.

This sculpture combines the rugged appearance and texture of wood fired clay with the warmth, softness and richness of velvet. The combination is inviting and entices the viewer to look and touch.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Inspirations for Anita's sculptures are plants, animals, landscapes and people. Having a strong science background has helped her to appreciate the fine details of nature that she incorporates into her art. She enjoys working in a variety of media to create art that is one of a kind, with care to incorporate realism and fine detail. At the same time, she enjoys adding a mix of surrealism, humor and tranquility. The influences and art that she admires include the great works of Magritte and Dali. Anita was first introduced to sculpture by Dr. Judith Peck; she continued to study the fine arts at Ramapo College. Recently she has studied at Odyssey Center for the Ceramic Arts and Penland School of Craft.

She was the recipient of the Gold Metal in 2015 and the Bronze Metal in 2014 in Sculpture (one of only 3 awards for Sculpture) at the juried North Carolina Silver Arts. Anita was a Merit Award Winner (one of only 11 awards given by judge Randy Shull) at the 2014 Sculpture Celebration in Lenoir, NC. She was in over 20 exhibitions in 2015. Her works have been shown in exhibitions at The Cameron Art Museum, The Surface Gallery (UK), University of NC at Pembroke, Hart Witzgen Gallery, The Gallery at Tryon Arts and Crafts, Sulfur Studios, Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association and Art Center, Transylvania Community Arts Council, HandMade in America, UPSTAIRS Artspace, Ramapo College, and The New England Institute of Art. 2016 looks to be a busy year.

Anita is pleased that her work has been selected for the April 2016 ArtFields Juried Art Competition.

MEDIUM(S): 3-D, Clay, Glaze, Mineral Stain, Soda wood-fired ceramic

DIMENSIONS: 10 x 8 x 5 1/2 inches

VALUE: \$667.00

VOTER ID: 656916

Voting has Ended