

People of influence: Linda Klarfeld, sculptor

with Glenda Hewitt for the Gazette

Tucked away in the Artarmon Industrial Area, artist Linda Klarfeld is producing monumental works of art which will stand the test of time. A former Chatswood teenager, Linda studied in Prague before coming back to Australia to study and work. Now in her early 30s, Linda's studio in Artarmon is the creative base for a new series of bronzes called *Influential Business People*. A previous work, *Expressions of Love*, a 14 piece bronze artwork, was unveiled at the Hunter Valley Gardens Rose Spectacular on 10 October 2009.

What led you to setting up a studio in Artarmon?

Initially I was not very enthusiastic about coming to Artarmon because my studio used to be in the old subscription office of the Australian Geographic in Terrey Hills. When my lease was up the universe conspired to bring me to Artarmon. It was not something I planned.

My Mum actually suggested I look in the area but I was against the idea of working in a crowded, suburban space. Then I met the local owner of a business called BeChallenged, which is based in Artarmon, and he told me of some of the advantages of being in the area. I am now closer to my clients, there is excellent public transport and I love the energy around me. I think it is the best move I ever made.

Don't you find the activities of the industrial area distracting?

My neighbours Microhire keep me motivated: they provide a real hub of movement in the street. The NSW Fire Brigade is also constantly on the go. I feel proud to have my studio in the same location as these guys and the other successful businesses around me. Their energy makes this space full of action and activity.

Where do you find your inspiration?

Inspiration comes from the things and people around me. At the moment I am working

on an exhibition based on 10 influential Australian businessmen.

Creating a bronze sculpture must be complex - how long does it take from start to finish?

Every sculpture is different. Some take months, the one I did of heart surgeon Dr Victor Chang, took years. The worst part is a blank canvas... or in my case, a lump of clay. Once I lock into the element and energy that I want to create and reproduce then it is not a problem. Inspiration is like love, it cannot be forced. But don't ask me to explain that to the bank manager!

Do you have any sculptures in the Willoughby City Council area?

Yes, I have a gallery full of sculptures that people can come and see. Naturally however, as I'm working, it's best that people contact me first via email: gallery@klarfeld.com. My website www.klarfeld.com is a good place to do some browsing and see some of my work.

Of the many forms of visual art, why did you specialise in bronzes?

Immortality. My statues will outlive me. The people I make statues of will be remembered forever and they will have meaning for generations to come. One of my specialties is creating bronze portrait busts and pastel drawings.

Do you get a lot of celebrities and art buyers visiting you? It seems funny to think of VIPs coming to the Artarmon industrial area!

I have a door of fame in the studio - photographs of all the celebrities that come here. Trucking magnate Lindsay Fox, of Linfox presided over the grand opening of my studio. From time to time I have functions that celebrities often attend. But to see them, you have to come to the exhibition! ■

