

Interview with Sculptor Taline Arakelian Iskedjian

## Sculptures that tell positive stories, immortalize life events

*Taline was born in Lebanon and moved to Canada in the early 1980s. From an early age, she has always had an interest in art. What started as a part-time hobby has turned into a pursuit of continuous improvements of sculpting techniques and designs. She is self-taught and has pursued some courses with renowned Toronto artists. Through her sculptures she wants to reveal stories that are meaningful to her.*

Interview by Karin Saghdejian

**Q. Taline, recently you held an exhibition and your sculptures are placed in public places. Tell us about them.**

A. I held my first solo exhibit, The Garden of my Imagination, on Labor Day weekend 2013 at Wychwood Barns in Toronto. I was very pleased with the response and interest it generated. Prior to that exhibit, I was honored that my most challenging sculpture, the bust of Rostom Zorian, was placed at the Armenian Community Centre of Toronto on the occasion of the 95th anniversary of Armenia's First Independence. Toronto's Armenian Community also had the opportunity to get a glimpse of my first exhibit when I was asked to display some of my sculptures during ARS Toronto Rubina Chapter's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

**Q. When did you first start sculpting?**

A. I started sculpting in 2010 after many years of learning and mastering the art of ceramic potteries. At one point, I shifted my attention to more artistic ceramic creations, which led me to consider sculpting as the next challenge in my development as an artist.

**Q. What types of art or artists have influenced you?**

A. Classical sculpting mostly influences me. There are many sculptors whose works I admire:



Armenesque Trio

Rodin, Degas, David Pearson, Marino Marini, John W. Mills, Bruno Catalano, to name a few. Whenever visiting a city, I make sure to visit sculpture museums. Three such museums have had a big influence on me: Rodin's Museum in Paris, Houston's Cullen Sculpture Garden and Manoli's Museum in Saint-Malo.

**Q. You have chosen a very hard medium to express your artistry. What draws you to sculpting?**

A. Art is a way of expressing human solutions, emotions and imaginations. I have chosen sculpting as a means of expressing myself. My work, which is the result of my inner world, is inspired by meaningful events in my life, as seen through my eyes. Some people use words so beautifully to express themselves, however for me I am more at ease with expressing myself through sculpting.

**Q. Your sculptures convey a wide range of emotions through body language and facial expressions. Where do you draw your inspiration from?**

A. I have tried to represent nature,

as well as life's beauty, peace, brilliance and joy. I have expressed all of these positive feelings through the faces and the physical expressions of my sculptures, in order to show the perfect harmony between nature and life. Each bronze sculpture immortalizes a life event. I have tried to see it through the eyes of the art lover to open his or her imagination so that he or she can find a piece of himself/herself in each of my sculptures. As a first impression, you'll notice that my sculptures have a common theme. They all show life's positive aspects. However, a closer look reveals that each sculpture is a story by itself. I invite your readers to visit my website [www.taline.ca](http://www.taline.ca) to view my sculptures.

**Q. What types of difficulties do you face in making and displaying your work?**

A. From a technical point of view, some of my sculptures are challenging for the foundry where the bronzing process takes place. For example, the leaves seen on some sculptures are very delicate and a time-consuming process in



Taline with her sculptures

order to achieve the perfection I'm striving for. From an artistic point of view, as is the case with any new artist, getting accepted by galleries is a very challenging task. However, I was lucky that during a visit to Montreal last October I was able to attract the interest of two local galleries. I'm happy to say that Galerie Saint-Paul in Old-Montréal now represents some of my sculptures. The owner, who's also an artist, has become a mentor to me. Thanks to his encouraging words, I submitted my portfolio to ArtExpo NY 2014, a top juried art exhibition on the East Coast of the US and was accepted to participate. I'll be in New York City the first weekend of April 2014.

**Q. What are you working on currently and what are your future work plans?**

A. I'm mostly focusing on my participation in ArtExpo NY 2014 in April and on a solo exhibit in November 2014 at Atelier RZLBD in Toronto. This exhibit will focus more on my modern and abstract pieces. Of course, I'm also constantly creating more sculptures.



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