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LINDA KINDLER PRIEST

Artist Statement

My small nature based sculptures are made so that they can be worn.

When I see a heron fly, a squirrel standing up right on my door step or view a tiger in a zoo, I am amazed with their grace, agility and the strength. I try to capture the essence of each living thing in metal. This is then combined with minerals, crystals and precious stones to create an environment or statement about that particular life form.

The images are sculpted directly into metal in relief form with a very ancient technique called repoussage. This process allows my personality to be embedded into the sculpture.

Stones have become extremely important in my work over the years. It is color that comes from nature, the pattern, surfaces, and textures of these that complete the statement and add excitement. I hunt down rocks and crystals to find something that will precisely fit a particular piece. It was necessary to learn how to cut stones so that I could achieve the right size, shape, and thickness that worked with each individual design. Doing my own lapidary work allowed me to create greater harmony between the components of my 2 part brooches.

My small sculptures are a balance between the imagery, materials, and color. They are art in the truest sense, which can be worn.

The Process

Repoussage is a method to actively sculpt the metal itself. It is a process that has been used by craftspeople as far back as the Etruscan, Egyptians, Scythians, and Greeks. They made incredible precious metal object.

With the use of a lot of hand made little tools and a neat specialized chasing hammer, the metal is pushed/ stretched to develop the form. It is a slow method of working the metal on both sides. With time and patience, fine lines, great detail, and feeling can be achieved. The metal changes, because it is work and reworked so much, there is a subtlety to it, which adds richness, and a softness to the image.

This manipulation of metal, the ability to move and control it, has captivated by me for many years, allowing me to sculpt all sort of wonderful birds, beast, fish , flowers, and bugs, in precious metal.

Commissions

Over the years I have created pieces of customers, each very different from each other. They are designed many time with the customers own stones. Sometimes they want a particular imagery to be used, something that has meaning to them. It might be an inspirational story that a parent has told them or sometimes a flower from their home country, or wish to immortalize a pet, or simply do something that gives them joy.

I have created things like a heritage sheep pet to twin penguins standing on snow balls.

Always a challenge and always fun to capture just the right feeling for a customer.