



PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST

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TRANSLATORS:
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From my earliest childhood, my passion for nature's gifts was evident. I remember my first day at school; unconcerned about arriving on time, I was fascinated by the newly fallen conkers bursting from their shells. And when I turned up late it was with a satchel full of shiny new conkers rather than nice clean exercise books. Not everyone was understanding – but I was happy. On another occasion, when a fall of snow took me by surprise, I stood entranced as the white flakes engulfed me – I too was a snowflake. I have

never lost this intense focus on the smallest, wonderful details of the natural world.

I began by studying textile technology, and then I married and became the mother of two wonderful children. My fascination for the many varied forms of flowers, wood, grasses, leaves and stones turned me into a collector early on. Although I live in a city, I have created

observations and ideas like a tree adding layers of growth year on year. At the same time, I kept searching for myself.

About ten years ago, I saw a woman doing needle felting. I was fascinated so I tried it myself. From that moment, I was obsessed with felt, and I began to teach myself how to make filigree felt miniatures. Over time, I refined my technique and then a shop in Leipzig,

I am no longer searching but I continue to find

a place of retreat and inspiration for myself in her small home which borders woodland, it feels like a cottage in the country. While I was searching for a means of artistic expression, or a medium capable of giving form to my inner world, I continued to store up my

'Kunstgriff', expressed an interest in my work and I became self-employed. I began to sell at craft markets, and started to broaden the scope of my work. I wasn't content, however, as I didn't yet feel able to give expression to my wealth of feelings and thoughts. A small ceramic female figure became my source



of inspiration and my means of accessing my inner femininity. However, it was only in response to an invitation to exhibit at the 'FrauenZimmer 2017' (Women's Room) exhibition in Siegburg that I was able to unleash fully my intensely feminine creativity. Intuitively, human figures, creatures and the most delicate shells emerged from my inner self. I developed a felt technique which allowed me to fashion figures from a single piece, rather like a sculptress. My figures are, above all, connected with the element air, floating in an imaginary space or emerging from a cocoon into their new identity.

The colour white is symbolic of the inner light from which my sculptures emerge. It allows them simultaneously to glow and to appear transparent. White allows me to concentrate on the essence of the creative process and to focus maximum attention on the contours and movement of the object. White also symbolises perfection, grandeur, clarity, purity and a fresh start, for "There is magic in every new beginning ... "(Hermann Hesse). I sense this magic at the start of each new piece of work

when I touch the delicate white wool fibres. I often display my work among wonderful pieces of driftwood which I also love collecting. In this context, each piece appears to tell the story of its own creative process. The viewer wonders whether the wood has given birth to the figure or whether the figure is retreating into the protective realm of the wood.

While working intensively on the female body, I also create miniature filigree corsets in wool and silk. I work mainly with fine white merino wool in order that nothing should deflect from the delicate faces and bodies so finely crafted with a needle. Unconsciously, I was following in the tracks of my ancestors. It was only as I worked that I remembered that my grandmother was a lace embroiderer and made corsets.

When I am gripped by an idea, I dive deeper into it. I often don't know in advance what will emerge, but I am aware of tiny vibrations deep inside me. At the outset, I often use external stimuli such as music to allow my creativity to flow: the deeper I delve, the more

I can hear my own inner music until I become so involved in the idea that the felting process instinctively becomes my own music. At that point, I feel what it is to be a creator and to hold my creation in my hands.

I intend to continue working on the theme of the female body, and am currently taking a life drawing class at the New Evening Academy for Fine Arts in Leipzig to improve my understanding of the complexity of the human body. In 2019 I will complete a 3 year felt-making course at the Felting School in Oberrot.

My creed: I cocoon myself in my imagination and let it become the music and dance in my life. This produces deeply personal felt sculptures which, again and again, revolve around the female body. It also allows me to observe my own life and to live out my own reality. Did my decision to become a felt artist change my life? Absolutely! I am no longer just a collector – I am a creator!

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