

Eleanor Cardozo



"An appreciation for beauty is simply a stirring of the soul - seat of the deepest emotions, the soul is nurtured by beauty"

ELEANOR CARDOZO.

The second of ten children, Eleanor Cardozo was born in London in 1965 but spent her early childhood in Africa and Malaysia. She was classically trained in sculpture at the City and Guilds in London and in portraiture in Florence. Her portraits adorn the walls of politicians, corporate directors, military academies and the aristocracy throughout Europe and Asia.

A former sportswoman herself, Cardozo's admiration for the values and philosophy of the Olympics led to her producing a series of bronze gymnasts, dedicating one to the top British rhythmic gymnast Frankie Jones. These new works range in size from coffee table miniatures to fantastically huge monuments - one of which, at three metres tall, lived in Heathrow's Terminal 5 building during the London 2012 Olympics.

Watching the video at Hay Hill Gallery of the artist at work, it is clear that the creation of these exquisite bronzes is a long and fascinating process. Every stage is recorded, from the initial pencil sketches to its realisation in solid metal. Cardozo uses a wire skeleton or 'armature' to model her clay on, working from sketches, live models and photographs. This takes at least two weeks to perfect, before delivering the figure to the foundry in Geneva. Using the 'lost wax' method involves creating a silicon mould, which serves to make the wax mould and is covered by concrete. Heated in a kiln, the molten metal is poured into the wax, melting it on contact, instantly moving into the space, cooling in place. After the bronze is broken out of the shell, it is polished and patinated - the entire process having taken about four to six weeks.

In association with Hay Hill Gallery, one of Cardozo's large sculptures is also being exhibited in Berkeley Square House until the end of June 2014. Right in the heart of Mayfair, this remains one of the West End's best known business locations, forming the central point between Grosvenor Street (North), Piccadilly (South), Regent Street (East) and Park Lane (West). The elegant glass Business Centre provides a perfect setting for *Poise*, a gymnast balancing between two circles of the globe and a hoop. With one balletic foot on the North Pole and a golden arm stretching out to touch the sun, precise equilibrium is achieved. The composition is excellently considered, from the triangle formed by the crook of the neck, bend in the knee and sharply arched spine, to the creased curve of a slipper mirrored in the smooth bronze lines of the leotard. The Berkeley Square Business Centre's distinctive glass entrance and brick façade is just a short journey away from Hay Hill Gallery's original space at 35 Baker Street, where several of Cardozo's bronzes form part of the permanent sculpture collection.

Living and working in Geneva, Cardozo has been creating bronze sculptures for International Fine Art Collectors for over 20 years and has exhibited her works in St Tropez, Monaco, Paris, Gstaad, Geneva, Lausanne, Megève, Venice and London. Her private and corporate commissions, including a Polo Player for Cartier and a Golfer for Volvo, are renowned for their finesse and precision.