

LEILA TAGHINIA-MILANI HELLER GALLERY



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ARTIST STATEMENT

MY INSPIRATION COMES PRIMARILY FROM MY CHILDHOOD WHERE I SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS IN MY PARENTS' JEWELRY WORKSHOP, IN NATURE, AND EVENTUALLY ASSISTING MY FATHER AS WE BUILT OUR HOUSE TOGETHER. THIS ECLECTIC PAST HAS ENABLED ME TO HAVE ACCESS TO MULTIPLE SKILL-SETS AND ALSO PLAYS A STRONG ROLE IN THE MATERIALS I WORK WITH. THE ABILITY TO MIX TRADITIONAL AND NON-TRADITIONAL MATERIALS AND TO CREATE UNIONS BETWEEN THESE MATERIALS IS VITAL TO ME. I BELIEVE THAT THESE FORMATIVE EXPERIENCES TRAINED MY EYES AND MY HANDS IN TO BE **"SHAPE SEARCHERS"**.

DURING THIS LAST YEAR OF PRODUCTION, I FEEL THAT I HAVE FOUND THE BEDROCK OF MY WORK. I DEVELOPED ARTWORK THAT DEEPENED MY INTEREST IN THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE NATURAL WORLD AND THE INDUSTRIAL ONE. IT IS THIS DIALECTIC FOCUSED ON THE **DECONSTRUCTION/RECONSTRUCTION** OF THOSE 2 WORLDS IN ENDLESS SHAPES THAT I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT.

SPECIFICALLY I HAVE FOUND A STRONG ATTRACTION TO MAKING WHAT I NOW CALL **"LIVING SCULPTURES"**, AN ASSEMBLAGE OF VARIOUS MATERIALS, MOSTLY METAL, WITH LIVING PLANTS. THESE SCULPTURES STEM FROM MY LOVE OF NATURE AND ARCHITECTURE AND THE POTENTIAL TO REDESIGN URBAN LANDSCAPES. I BELIEVE THAT, AS A SOCIETY, THE MORE WE **"GO DIGITAL"** THE MORE WE WILL NEED TO **"GO NATURAL"**.

ULTIMATELY, THROUGH THE BLENDING OF DIVERSE AND SOMETIMES CONTRASTING COMPONENTS, I SET OUT TO MAINTAIN AN ELEMENT OF 'SURPRISE' IN ALL OF MY PROJECTS. COUPLED WITH THE CONCEPT OF BEING A **"FLÂNEUR"** PUT FORTH BY BEAUDELAIRE TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO 'TAKE THE TIME, TO TAKE THE TIME' IN A PARIS THAT WAS RAPIDLY CHANGING, I WANT MY ARTWORK AND THE SPACE IT RESIDES IN TO TRANSPORT PEOPLE INTO DIFFERENT ZONES. I REALLY LOOK FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AND ENCOURAGE THEIR IMAGINATION TO WANDER: TO BECOME A **"MODERN-DAY FLÂNEUR"**.