

Becoming The Persephone

Kathy Kranias

Curated by Janette Platana

15 May – 12 July 2009
the Stairwell

Currently based in Toronto, Kathy Kranias creates beautiful, one-of-a-kind ceramic pieces inspired by nature, the human form and greek mythology. This installation brought together by Peterborough curator Janette Platana features a series of works inspired by the myth of Demeter and Persephone and the relationship to transformative processes, including loss and change as well as creation and destruction.

Curatorial Statement

If it were not the case from the beginning, this exhibition came to be about the process of artmaking, curating, and living.

In the Demeter and Persephone myth, we are accustomed to seeing the word Persephone as a name; in fact, it is a title: Queen of the World Below.

The original and actual name of Demeter's daughter is Koré. It means youth.

In the grief-striking myth of Demeter's loss of her daughter, Koré leaves her mother and her adolescence behind to become Queen of her own realm. In choosing to become The Persephone, Koré -- and the artist -- Kathy Kranias, and every artist -- comes to accept this process.

The characteristics of the medium of clay – earth and water mixed and shaped by human hands, and transformed by fire – is powerful and fragile. As each of us moves from youth, we move from innocence to maturity, with its inherent sorrows, strength, possibilities, and power.

Twice in the long process of becoming, a central sculpture in this show was destroyed.

This myth of becoming The Persephone, and the process of making the works in this exhibition, is about the experience of loss and change – even traumatic, displacing change: earthquake, aging, loss: loss of control, loss of youth. We lose childhood to maturity, and maturity to death. We lose our children to their own lives, and our artworks to breakage, despair, and other disasters.

And if we have eyes to see it, the result is beauty.

My many and heartfelt thanks to Kathy Kranias for allowing me to share, as curator, in this tender process.

Janette Platana