

NANCY LEGGE

ARTIST'S STATEMENT 2010

As a figurative sculptor, my work investigates the power of abstraction and its expressive possibilities. It was initially fueled by ancient stone circles like the Stones of Callanish in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland and more renowned sites like Stonehenge and Avebury in southern England. While the current work still draws on these megalithic forms, I am also investigating the interplay of the standing figure with different kinds of materials – placing iron directly into the figures, using encaustic on the surface of the figures and creating environments out of stone or iron. I am also beginning to explore glass as both a casting medium and as an element within the clay body itself.

The fragmented figure has been a visual preoccupation for me -- particularly as it relates to the Japanese idea of "zan ketsu no bi" – finding beauty in something missing. I am also drawn to Greek Cycladic sculpture, mummified forms and early Maya figures. All of my recent work begins in clay. I raku and pit fire my pieces. I also cast work in bronze and glass.