Artist's Statement

Janet Macpherson

My work revolves around the process of creating slip cast figures from readily available commercial plaster molds and molds that I make from found toys and random objects. I take pieces from cast forms and attach them together in unusual ways, creating new forms that are both familiar and strange. I slip-cast different parts and then I make them fit together. It is not a predetermined task, and it evolves intuitively over time.

I leave the seams exposed to echo the mold making process, and to reference my interest in fragmentation, deformity and incongruity. I am drawn to the imagery from my Catholic childhood, from the margins of medieval manuscripts, from visual accounts of the martyrdom of saints, and the chaotic paintings of Bosch. These bizarre yet beautiful images contain phenomenon that suggests the corruptibility of flesh, the deformity of body, the unpredictability of nature and the inevitability of death, and I strive to address these concerns in my work.

I have created a world in which there are hybrids that are made of two different animals, grotesques that combine human and animal forms, and figures that are being consumed by their own pedestals. These elements collide to create a strange world outside the boundaries of the everyday. My work investigates peculiar things that live on the edge of normal, incongruous things that exist side by side, and uncanny things that make us wonder and compel us to look again.