

JULEE RICHARDSON

Artist Statement

My earliest memories of creating visual expressions were scribbles inside the covers of my parents' treasured books. Drawing, coloring, painting, making plaster sculptures, seemed to be the only time I was physically still and focused. I could spend hours quietly creating and I was encouraged to do just that.

C. Wright Mills talks of the "*sociological imagination*," a way of seeing the world: a going beyond the individual experience, to see the influence of larger forces at play, within society. To me, the sociological imagination is seeing through the eye of the artist. The artist sees and then creates. It is the sociological imagination that often steers the direction of my work. Most recently I have been influenced by the book "Half the Sky." Thus began a series of works entitled "Unprotected" representing vulnerable children. I am drawn to their faces, emotions, disharmony, light, darkness and beauty.

"Monesha" as part of this series, is the sculptural narrative of someone's sister or daughter. Unprotected and already a target, the key line has been used to mimic the crosshairs of a rifle.