

Kirsten Engstrom
406 N. State Road 21
Hawthorne, FL 32640
716-753-0361
kirsten4art@gmail.com

When I read that you wanted a statue that reflects peace, love, justice and the shared values and aspirations of the community, you had my attention.

My work both during the construction at the site and throughout its life always invites the involvement of the community (please see photos titled “a child with sculptures,” “b Child with Red Joy,” and “c Ladies with real ladies”).

The main impact of my work is PEACE, LOVE, COMMUNITY, PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT, AND POWER (please see photo titled “2-2 Angelita 17 ft. high”).

I would welcome the opportunity to work with you to create a sculpture that stimulates these values specifically for this community. I have included a small model (see photos titled “Model for 20-934 Rebid”) as one idea of how my work could communicate this message. I would, however, love to discuss several possibilities. For example, I would love to include various ethnic groups, even a likeness of folks in the community (not to represent them as individuals, but rather to depict the group they represent with personal accuracy regarding hair style, bone structure, etc.).

I envision three figures, larger than life size melded together with arms raised. The figures would represent different ethnic groups both male and female. The bodies would be made of reinforced concrete and the hands and heads would be made of high-fire ceramic.

Sculptures made of these materials last as long (even longer) than the buildings that live nearby (please see photo titled “2-4 Joy with flowers,” “2-2 Angelita 17 ft. high,” and “2-6 FSM sign hands, Gainesville, Florida”). They have been in New York winters and Florida hurricanes for over 25 years. They are easily maintained and easily repaired.

I would build the sculpture on the site inviting the participation and involvement of folks walking by.

I will start the wire support frame immediately to get a sense of the size demanded by the platform and surroundings (please see photo titled Wwire armature for 6 ft.”). Since the armature is light and easily moved and changed, I can place it on the platform at the very beginning of the creation to be sure it adequately measures up to the space it will occupy. I will then make heads and hands out of high fire ceramic to fit the already pre-determined size of the figures. I would also like to send you photos of the heads during the creation process so that changes can be made before firing them. In September 2020, I will put the two together and construct the finished sculpture at the site.

On site, I expect the statue to take at least a month to complete (please see Budget and Timeline attachment). The weight is hard to determine in advance but I assume it will be between two and three thousand pounds (cement is heavy, durable, and almost indestructible as well as easy to repair). As for cost, I’ve included a break down in a separate document (Budget and Timeline). I use recycled material as much as possible, such as fencing and wire. Hard labor is the main ingredient. As with all of my sculptures exhibited in public spaces, I will repair as needed for as long as I am alive.

Recommendations are included from Stasia Pieczenik, Gretchen Gaede, Gloria Starita, and Louanne Fredrick. I have also included a poem from a visitor, Don Meldrum, to my one woman show at Mossman Hall in February 2020.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kirsten Engstrom

P.S. You can find three ten minute videos of my work at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtStjGzCIZE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGAMc7uFdIY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ddlb7pZT-s>.

KIRSTEN ENGSTROM, M.A., L.M.T.
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HAWTHORNE, FLORIDA 32640
(716) 753-0361
kirsten4art@gmail.com
[youtube video Kirsten Engstrom artist](#)

Kirsten, sculptor, massage therapist and teacher, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1944. She received her B.A. in English Literature and Mathematics in 1969, her M.A. in Art in 1972 and her L.M.T. in 1996.

Seeking to broaden her education, Kirsten went abroad in 1976. The Spanish spirit, the unspoiled countryside and villages of an island off the coast of Spain – Mallorca – captured her attention. Here she put down roots and stayed 20 years.

She was director of “Es Retall”, art gallery and school, in Palma de Mallorca, Spain 1979-82. She has developed art programs in Cultural Centers throughout Mallorca as well as taught Art at the elementary, secondary and university levels in the USA.

She has exhibited extensively abroad, in Mallorca and Barcelona and stateside in New York, Florida, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Kirsten returned to live in the USA, in 1995, and is now doing monumental outdoor sculptures in addition to her other work.

Her sculptures in clay and reinforced concrete reflect her ever-present personal involvement in everything she does. There is a quality in Kirsten’s work that inspires and moves people. It is as if her sculptures truly are alive and move their audience to touch into their own joy and beauty. It is this interactive quality in Kirsten’s work that makes her pieces so unique and fun. Children have been observed talking to her sculptures, insisting, “They are alive”.

She now spends her time building sculptures, exhibiting and teaching in New York and Florida. She loves to involve the community when she constructs a monumental piece, inviting school children and adults to observe the process, comment and participate in the creation.

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LISTING OF MONUMENTAL SCULPTURES:

FLA. SCHOOL OF MASSAGE, Gnsvl., Fl., Monumental Sculpture- "Circle of Friends", 2003-present.

M & T BANK, Mayville, NY, Monumental Sculpture- "Tumble", 2003-2008.

CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION, Chaut., NY, Monumental Sculpture- "Peace", 2003-present.

MELROSE LIBRARY, Melrose, Fl., Monumental Sculpture- "Storyteller", 2002-present.

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rochester, NY, Monumental Sculpture- "Esperanza", 2002.

MOSSMAN HALL, Melrose, Fl., Monumental Sculpture- "Cherie", 2001-present.

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF MASSAGE, Gnsvl., Fl. Monumental Sculpture- "In Good Hands", 2000-present.

PRIVATE COLLECTION, Warren, Pa., Monumental Sculpture- "Marvin", 1999-present.

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF MASSAGE, Gnsvl., Fl. Monumental Sculpture- "Reaching", 1997-present.

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF MASSAGE, Gnsvl., Fl. Monumental Sculpture- "Awe", 1996-present.

CHAUTAUQUA OPERA COMPANY, Chaut. NY, Monumental Sculpture- "Roman Couple", 1996.

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF MASSAGE, Gnsvl., Fl. Monumental Sculpture-
“Elders II”, 1995-present.

PRIVATE COLLECTION. N.Y, N.Y., Monumental Sculpture- “Elders I”,
1992-present.

OTHER EXHIBITS (Stateside and Abroad):

MOSSMAN HALL, Melrose, Fl. One Woman Show 2019 and 2020
(Febuary)

MELROSE BAY ART GALLERY, Melrose, Fl. Joint Show, 2004.

MELROSE BAY ART GALLERY, Melrose, Fl. Joint Show, 1998-2000.

ART CAFE, Gainesville, Fl. 3-4/2000, FEATURED ARTIST.

ART CAFE, Gainesville, Fl. 2/5/2000, "BEST OF SHOW AWARD".

ART AND SOUL GALLERY, Westfield, NY, 1994-present.

NORTH VILLAGE GALLERY, Warren, Pa., 1994-present.

PORTAGE HILL GALLERY, Westfield, NY, 1994-present.

WARES FOR ART GALLERY, NYC, Joint Show, 1994.

GLASS GROWERS GALLERY, Erie, Pa., 1993-4.

PATTERSON GALLERY, Westfield, NY, ONE WOMAN SHOW, 1993.

FREDONIA UNIVERSITY, Fredonia, NY, ONE WOMAN SHOW, 1993.

CHAUTAUQUA WOMEN'S CLUB, Chaut., NY, 1991 & 1992.

GLORIA PLEVIN GALLERY, Chaut., NY, 1990, 1991 & 1992.

CHAUTAUQUA ART ASSN., Chaut., NY, JURIED SHOW, 1990, 1991 & 1992.

ERIE MUSEUM JURIED SPRING SHOW, Erie, Pa., 1991.

S'ESTACION D'ART, Sineu, Mallorca, Spain, Honorable Mention, 1991.

CASA DE CULTURA, Santanyi, Mallorca, Spain, PURCHASE AWARD, 1984 & 1986.

CENTRO CULTURAL DE CAMPOS, Mallorca, Spain, 1985

AYUNTAMIENTO DE FELANITX, Mallorca, Spain, 1984.

ES RETALL GALLERY, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 1980-1983.

CERCLE ARTISTIC DE SANT LLUC, Barcelona, Spain, 1978.

MONROE'S GALLERY, Barcelona, Spain, 1977.

DRAC GALLERY, Barcelona, Spain, 1977.

INTREPID GALLERY, Boston, Mass., 1975.

KEENE STATE COLLEGE, Keene, N.Hampshire, ONE WOMAN SHOW, 1975.

PASSIM GALLERY, Cambridge, Mass., ONE WOMAN SHOW, 1975.

Kirsten Engstrom: Samples of work

2-2 Angelita 17 ft. high



2-3 Fernandina 1



2-4 Joy with flowers



Louanne with sculpture



FSM sign hands, Gainesville, Florida



Ba Hoa Binh (esteemed woman of peace)



Black lady 6 ft. 4 inches



A child with sculptures



Child with Red Joy



Ladies with real ladies



Wire armature for 6 ft.



Model for 20-934 Rebid: Images of proposed statue for the West Lawn

- a. Description of proposed statue including material, approximate dimensions, and weight are included in letter of intent.
- b. Description of life expectancy and maintenance requirements are included in letter of intent.
- c. Installation plan is included in letter of intent.





Poem from a visitor to Kirsten Engstrom's one woman show at Mossman Hall, Melrose, Fl. February 1-28, 2020.

UPRAISED ARMS

Don Meldrum 2/10/2020

A smile with upraised arms
Within each small standing statue
A spirit of joyfulness
The clay given spirit
A centering of positive feeling
Ongoing delight, bliss, gladness
A clay statue transformed
From simple earth
To become the substance of pure joy
Unaltered, genuine, thorough
Through and through
The power to create
From clay to emotion
Through the hands of the sculptor
An alchemy that changes
The maker and the holder
Holding in one's eyes
A smile with upraised arms

Kirsten Engstrom Budget and Timeline
20-934 Rebid Call to Artists
for County Administration Building West Lawn Statue

Budget

Description	Amount	Subtotal
Rebar and steel wool	\$2,000	\$2,000.00
Cement colorant	\$600	\$600.00
Clay (heads and hands)	\$400	\$400.00
Sand (for cement)	\$800	\$800.00
Cement	\$1,000	\$1,000.00
Photography	\$200	\$200.00
Signs (placed at site during construction of the statue)	\$500	\$500.00
Kiln (firing)	\$200	\$200.00
Travel to and from installation site	44 miles roundtrip @ .58 per mile, 120 roundtrips estimated for artist and two assistants	\$3,062.40
Assistants to travel to Gainesville, load and unload materials (est. one month)	\$1,500 per assistant, two assistants	\$3,000.00
*Insurance	\$2,000	\$2,000.00
Artist effort (including materials and reconstruction to address any incidents of vandalism during statue construction)		\$26,237.60
TOTAL	-	\$40,000.00

*Insurance is an estimate. If project is awarded, I will purchase liability insurance as required by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners.

Timeline

Time from start to completion: Approximately four months from time of award, to be completed in late fall 2020.

The first two months will be spent building the wire support frame based on the demands of the platform and its surroundings. This will require multiple trips to the site and construction at my studio. The armature is light, so can be constructed at my studio, brought to the site, and then returned to my studio for modifications. During this time, I would also like to share the progress of the design with the Board of County Commissioners. Also during the first two months, all material will be ordered.

The third month will be spent making the heads and hands, based on the finished wire support frame.

The final month will be spent primarily on site, constructing the statue. During this time, I will keep the public involved in the process by exhibiting signs regarding the progress

of this public work of art and its theme of peace, love, and justice. The public will be welcome to observe as the statue is constructed, and I will welcome interaction in the form of dialogue regarding the statue's construction and its vision.

It is my hope—and the hope of the community—that vandalism will not be an issue. However, if vandalism during construction occurs, I will expend whatever effort is necessary, including replacement of materials and reconstruction, to ensure that the statue is completed within budget. To discourage vandalism, all materials not in place on the pedestal at the end of each working day will be returned to my studio and brought back to the site at the beginning of each working day.

References

February 17, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:
From: Stasia Pieczenik (nee Rudolph)
Re: Kirsten Engstrom -Artist

As a director of Mossman, I can say that we are so proud to host Kirsten Engstrom's One-Woman show for the second year. Her beautifully human sculptures are a well known entity in our artist community. Kirsten is an active member of our town not only in the media of clay but also in the spoken word: story-telling and poetry. Kirsten embodies not just our beloved small town values but also expands her emotional connectivity to all cultures and backgrounds because she is a world traveler and constant learner.

As the financial director of a small 501 (c) 3, I value the contributions of an artist like Kirsten. She contributes, is easy to work with and has the gravitas to bring in contributions because of her soulful creations. I would highly recommend that your organization takes the opportunity to have Kirsten as a contributing artist. Please let me know if I can provide more information on this great opportunity.

<https://www.mossmanhomepreservationfoundation.com>

Stasia Pieczenik
Treasurer
Mossman Home Preservation Foundation
786 371 6689 (cell/text)

February 18, 2020

Gloria Starita
Jade & Pearl
PO Box 1106
Hawthorne, Fl 32640
386-684-3217

To Whom it May Concern:

I commissioned Kirsten Engstrom a number of years ago to create a life-sized sculpture in honor of my teenaged daughter who was tragically killed by a drunk driver.

The 4-foot sculpture captured the essence of my child.

It now stands in my garden and when I see it, it gives my heart comfort.

Kirsten's ability to convey emotions through her work is outstanding.

Sincerely

Gloria Starita

2/19/2020

Gmail - Need info?...



kirsten engstrom <kirsten4art@gmail.com>

Need info?....

Gretchen Gaede <studioggsable2@earthlink.net>
To: kirsten engstrom <kirsten4art@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 18, 2020 at 5:32 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

Kirsten Engstrom has been exhibiting her work in my Gallery, Gretchen's Gallery in Chautauqua New York for almost ten years.

Our client base is very loyal to her and continues to be enthralled by her creativity.

In addition we represented Kirsten when she received the honor of designing the prestigious award for the Chautauqua Arts Prize. This annual event has many applicants and Kirsten was chosen from a large field of artists to create the original award which would be presented to the honoree at a very highly publicized event.

Gretchen Gaede
Owner
Gretchen's Gallery
One Ames Avenue
Chautauqua New York 14722

Sent from my iPhone
[Quoted text hidden]

2/25/2020

Gmail - Letter of Recommendation



kirsten engstrom <kirsten4art@gmail.com>

Letter of Recommendation

1 message

LAFrederick55@twc.com <LAFrederick55@twc.com>

Tue, Feb 18, 2020 at 5:06 PM

Reply-To: LAFrederick55@twc.com

To: "kirsten4art@gmail.com" <kirsten4art@gmail.com>

Letter of Recommendation for Kirsten Engstrom

I contacted Kirsten with an idea for a life-sized lady with outstretched arms that hopefully would convey the sense of peace and awe I feel in what I call "my backyard refuge". We exchanged thoughts and ideas and Kirsten asked for a picture of me experiencing the sentiments I feel. What she created was an incredible likeness of me that makes my heart happy when I look at it each day. Kirsten was always receptive to my questions and suggestions. It could not have been a more wonderful experience.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Frederick

LAFrederick55@twc.com