

THE ARTISTIC SCULPTOR-CERAMIST ATHENA JAHANTIGH

By Farah Rezeika

ATHENA IS A FRANCO-IRANIAN SCULPTOR-CERAMIST WHOSE ARTISTIC JOURNEY BEGAN IN IRAN AND GAINED RECOGNITION FOR HER SCULPTURES CHARACTERIZED BY A UNIQUE STYLE AND A FOCUS ON ANIMAL IMAGERY. INSPIRED BY PREHISTORIC ART MASTERS AND DRIVEN BY HER PASSION FOR ART, ATHENA HAS OVERCOME CHALLENGES AND EARNED A DOCTORATE IN ART, SOLIDIFYING HER PLACE IN THE ARTISTIC COMMUNITY.



CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR BACKGROUND? HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN YOUR CAREER?

I am a Franco-Iranian sculptor-ceramist. I started my art studies in Iran, probably because my father was a painter and calligrapher. Studying art was a way to continue to appreciate my father and his ability to create, and to walk his path a little in my own way.

WHAT INITIALLY INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE YOUR CURRENT FIELD OF WORK?

Over the past 26 years, I have explored various paths inspired by nature, artistic movements, and social issues. Animals have been a consistent theme in my work, influenced by ancient art from Shahr-e Sukhteh in Iran. The animal imagery found in prehistoric art has been a significant source of inspiration for me.

CAN YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OR PROJECTS THAT YOU'RE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF?

I moved to France in 2003 to pursue my art studies, facing challenges but also experiencing rich growth. Today, I run my own studio creating sculptures that bring me joy. Despite mistakes and

setbacks, I earned a doctorate in art, established my studio, and now sell my sculptures globally. I am proud of my journey, with all its imperfections.

HOW DO YOU STAY MOTIVATED AND INSPIRED IN YOUR WORK?

My work is my passion, It's the main reason that helps me stay motivated.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS OR MENTORS WHO HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON YOUR CAREER?

Yes, in life we grow, we learn, and we move forward thanks to a group of people who have often or partly been on our way. It is with the love, the existence, and the limitless support of three people that I have advanced the most in life: **my two parents (Sharif Jahantigh and Anis Karimi) and my husband (Benjamin Allary).**

CAN YOU SHARE ANY UPCOMING PROJECTS THAT YOU'RE EXCITED ABOUT?

In 2024, I will participate in an exhibition with the theme of "vases." I find it interesting to change direction sometimes. I will respect my work's theme: "animals."

OUTSIDE OF WORK, WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES OR INTERESTS THAT HELP YOU UNWIND AND RECHARGE?

I enjoy walking, traveling, visiting museums, and attending exhibitions



@Athena Jahantigh & Maximilian Tomozei



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING ARTISTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING A SIMILAR CAREER PATH?

I believe that whatever route someone is considering taking can only be effective if that person believes in what they are doing and follows their intuition with enthusiasm and perseverance. 🏠

SO FAR, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS YOU'VE LEARNED AND HOW HAVE THEY SHAPED YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE AND WORK?

To want is to be able to.

CHECK FULL ART WORK AT:

www.athenajahan.com/index.php/fr/