

NUTE

CHICAGO

JUNE 2016

JYL BONAGURO
THE ART OF
SCULPTURE

TAPPING INTO
OUR COLLECTIVE
SUBCONSCIOUS
WITH **JAIME
FOSTER**

LINDSAY CARRON
TALKS ABOUT HER
NEW ALASKA INSPIRED
ART *WILD IN THE CITY* -
NEW WAYS TO WILD

COACHELLA
LOOKS OF 2016

**EMMI
KAINULAINEN**
DESIGNER TALKS ABOUT
HER NEW DESIGNS AND
HOW SHE BECAME WHO
SHE IS TODAY

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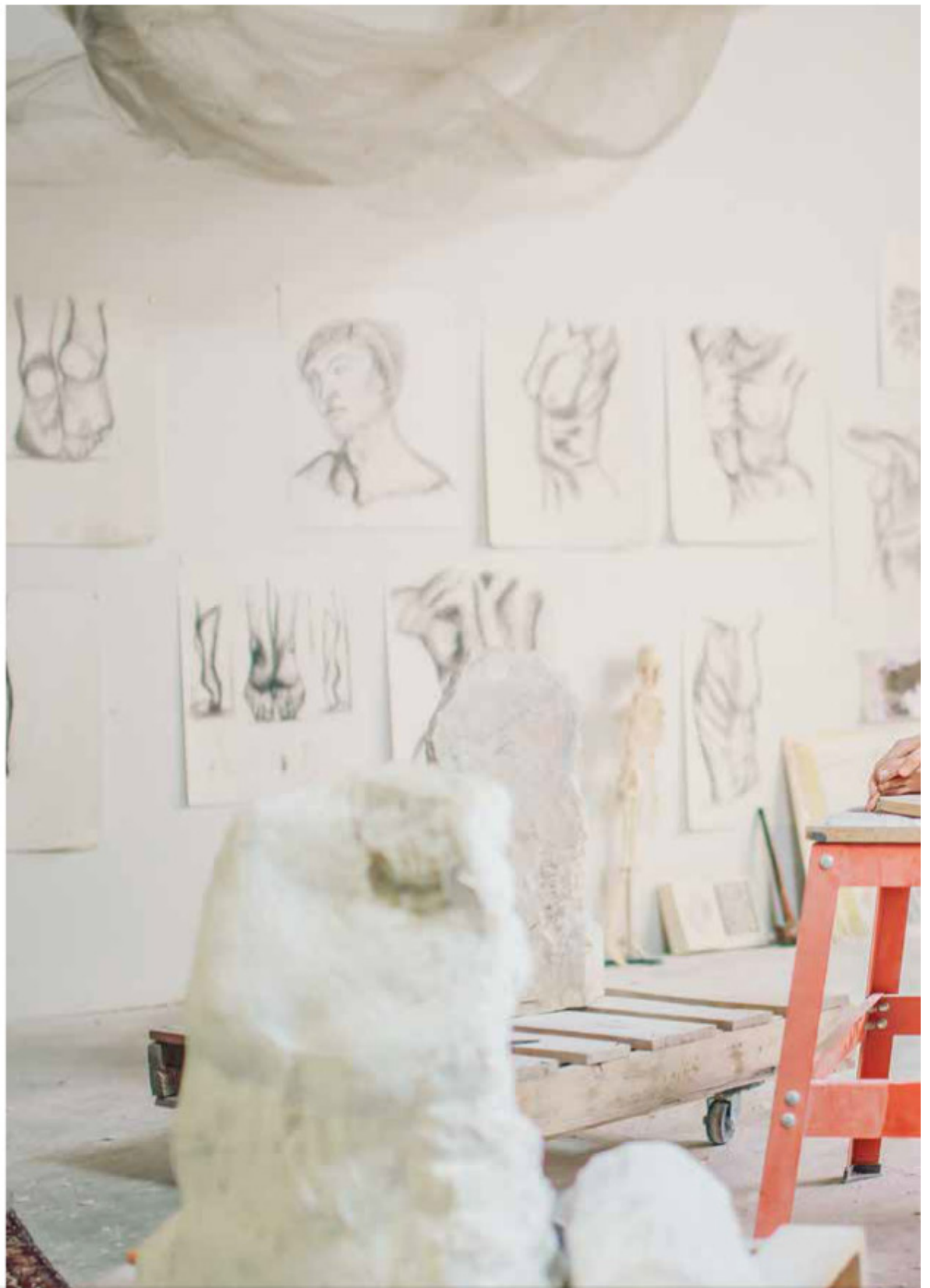
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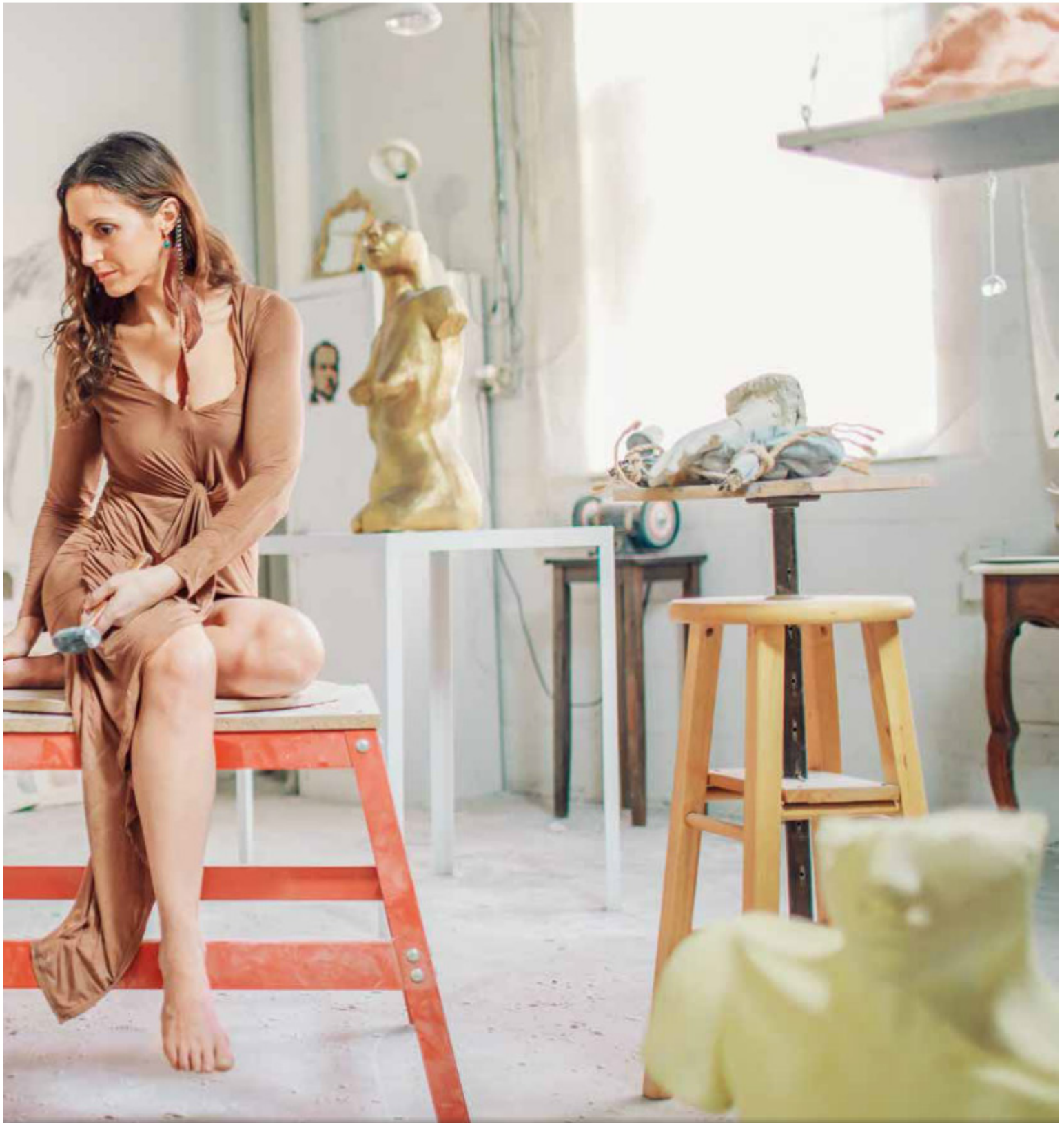
JYL BONAGURO



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THE ART OF SCULPTURE

by
Donovan Stanley





Jyl Bonaguro strives to live her life in the spirit of the Renaissance ("Rebirth" in French). After Hurricane Katrina blew through her life in New Orleans, she was reborn and an act of devastation turned into liberation.

"After losing so much and feeling shattered, I recognized that much of what I lost were simply things that I didn't need anyhow. What I needed was to focus full time on my art work."

Carving Italian marble by hand, she creates fragmented figurative sculptures that fuse ancient techniques with modern ideas. Bonaguro's beautiful sculptures loosely resemble fragments excavated by archaeologists. Her artistic intention is to reveal how countless civilizations have risen and fallen to be only reduced to ruins. This rise and fall reveals the fallacy of immortality and this endless cycle casts immortality and beauty as transient forms of illusion.

However, long before she began carving marble, she traveled and lived in a variety of places in America, Europe and Asia. Her life in South Korea as an English teacher is a particularly favorite source of inspiration. While wandering through the back alleys of Gwangju, Jyl discovered ink wash paintings and spas. She fell in love with their delicate painting style and simple bathing rituals for skin care. Paint was sold in small black bars that were easy to transport and only required water to mix into paint. It was the

perfect solution for an on-the-road, backpacking artist.

In addition to "Rebirth," the word Renaissance is also used to describe a person who seeks proficiency in several areas. Jyl was so inspired by her decade of travels that when she returned to Chicago, she began exploring a variety of mediums. Nothing escapes her sense of curiosity: sculpture, oil painting, playwriting, furniture design, graphic design and web development. She is also an entrepreneur who launched a skin care line, CALM.

She began designing and building modular furniture units to keep all of her various projects in order. The local lumber yard knew Jyl by name and would patiently cut all her wood and then tie and stack it onto her bicycle. Not the most efficient form of transport, but she was a sight to be seen for years walking her bicycle down the street piled high with wood. Her interest in painting began to wane as the possibilities of working in three dimensions grew into an obsession for sculpting the human figure.

Materials like clay and plaster in a local class allowed her to learn about armature and casting and she even turned to participating in snow sculpture contests to work at scales exceeding 10 feet tall. However, clay often resulted in sculptures that exploded in kilns, while mold making and casting was irrefutably tedious, and the labor of snow sculptures was often rewarded by watching them melt quickly in the sun.

As she explored materials, reoccurring themes emerged in her fragmented, unfinished figures about humanity and the transient nature of it all. Her simple paragraph artist statements did not allow enough space for all her ideas about human nature and the sculptures themselves were silent forms on pedestals.

After reading the book "Emilie Du Châtelet: Daring Genius of the Enlightenment," she became engrossed with the 17th century female mathematician, scientist and lover of Voltaire and decided to begin writing plays. Writing for the stage allowed her to give voice to her ideas by simply giving the line of dialogue to a character. Threading together comedy and tragedy, her plays are well-regarded for their timeless wit and strong female protagonists.

As she began working on the workshop production of her play "Urania," a phone call from an old friend and fellow artist from New Orleans once again changed her life trajectory. He remembered her desire to carve and offered her blocks of Italian marble; all she needed to do was pick them up from Georgia and build him a website. Thousands of miles in a truck driven by her supportive parents, a fork lift and over 800 pounds of marble later, she finally found a material that resonated with her. As soon as she touched the stone blocks, everything coalesced.

"I had for years dreamt that I wanted to carve a female figure at the same scale of Michelangelo's David. That dream had seemed impossible."

Working with chisels that she had also bought in New Orleans before the hurricane, she began carving the marble in 2014. The learning curve, not to mention the physical exhaustion that ensued, often caused her to question her sanity. But she persevered and exhibited her first series of marble and alabaster sculptures at Hilton Asmus Contemporary, hilton-asmus.com.

She has accomplished a great deal with no formal training, but this summer Jyl will be traveling to Italy for the month of July to work and study at the marble quarries in Carrara in the same quarries of Michelangelo. A documentary about her sculptures and journey as an artist is currently being filmed by Motion Filmworks and will continue filming her in Italy. Her travels to the birth place of the Italian Renaissance is a fitting step in the artistic journey of this truly renaissance woman.





