

Bart van Hoek, *Sculptor*

“I am stunned myself. It never ends. Woman keeps inspiring me in making my sculptures. Women have come into being out of sheer admiration and amazement. Their appearance is something between contemplative stillness and baroque sensuality. There is something in everyone of them of the all-time mother having divine, womanly features”.

Thus the sculptor Bart van Hoek characterizes plainly and briefly the sculptures that come into being under his hands. The divine woman that appears again and again from under a skin of bronze in a wide variety of forms. The essence of her being comes from deep down inside, is a kind of archetype. Every sculpture shows, through its body, bearing and mass, both its own individual nature and its alliance with the earth. Characteristic of Bart Van Hoek’s sculptures are the round shapes, wide hips and relatively small heads. The beholder may find himself with the irresistible urge to touch them, which again strengthens the connection between the sculpture and the onlooker and from which a sense of intimacy may arise. A feeling further amplified by the sensual power exuded both by sculpture and woman.

The man Bart van Hoek is delighted with womankind; the sculptor Bart van Hoek expresses what moves the man so deeply. He exaggerates her curves and thus finds a way to express what ‘woman’ symbolizes and how that becomes manifest in a sometimes mythical, sometimes non-mythical way. Here her sex plays an important role as well.

Although the sculptures may seem to be largely focused inwardly they do not keep anyone at bay. On the contrary, their balance, their contemplative quiet and their mature sensuality attract greatly. Bart van Hoek uses both woman’s forms and being to create sculptures that give great pleasure and that offer their broad laps and ample minds as places of rest in this society full of turbulence.

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