

AMERICAN  
*art*  
COLLECTOR



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HOLLY WILSON

## Shared emotions

**H**olly Wilson tells touching, universal stories in a three-dimensional format. Using the traditional method of lost-wax casting in combination with mixed-media elements, the Oklahoma-based artist casts one-of-a-kind figures in her studio.

“My figures serve as my storytellers in the world, telling stories of the sacred and the precious, capturing moments of our day, our vulnerabilities and our strengths,” Wilson says. “They are the quiet echoes of life’s delicate balance, telling of the fragility in both life and their own form; how far one can reach, which step may be too many.”

Intricacies and smallness differentiate her work. Each figure stands roughly 7 inches tall and weighs less than a pound. Wilson’s work is unique in that each is a singular edition; no two are alike. In addition to bronze,

she uses materials such as sterling silver, ceramics and encaustic. “A lot of my sculptures are in the round but off the wall. Using the negative space of a wall and the shadow it casts is as important as the bronze itself,” she remarks.

Wilson’s latest work is evolving from a single form to include multiple figures and additional symbols to relay a broadened narrative. In the past individuals shared the same bronzy skin tone and were always dressed in red. “Now each one is really specific to whatever the story is,” she states. “Going forward there’s a lot more facets to it.”

As with all her figures thus far, Wilson does not depict genitalia. “You can tell the figure through the quiet language of gesture and form,” she counters.

In one of Wilson’s newest pieces, *Belonging*, she uses

**1**  
*Secrets are Burdens*,  
bronze, flex cord,  
24 x 28 x 13”

**2**  
*Belonging*, bronze,  
geode, 9½ x 10 x 6”

**3**  
*Should I Stay or Should  
I Go*, bronze, African  
mahogany, 9 x 22 x 4”

**4**  
*Watcher*, bronze,  
encaustic, 10 x 11 x 4”



2



3



4

two nondescript figures to represent the idea of the spirit of a boy and a girl; the masculine and the feminine. The two forms are built in wax and fitted to balance atop a geode that has been split in half. She explains of the piece, “We are always looking for that feeling of belonging, that sense of a key in a lock. The geode I break open revealing two sides...two sides of the self, two halves of a whole.”

Ultimately, Wilson hopes her works transcend gender barriers and racial divides. “We’re all more connected than we believe... I hope people see how similar we are at the core,” she says.

Bonner David Galleries will be featuring Wilson’s work at *ART Santa Fe*, held July 10 to 13 at the Santa Fe Convention Center in New Mexico. ●