



A STUDY OF JOY 2025

CARMEN CLEWS



Reunion Island

Welcome to Carmen's creative odyssey spanning a decade, which – above all – is a profound study in joy, as well as an unveiling of her captivating blend of deep surrender, cosmic energy, and a celebration of life.

At the core of this collection lies a universal theme, a narrative intricately woven with threads of surrender, vulnerability, and trust.

These elements ultimately culminating in expressions that not only mirrors Carmen's journey towards consistent joy but also aspire to encapsulate the quintessence of human existence, often obscured by the intricacies of daily life.



BIOGRAPHY

Carmen Clews is a British-born sculptor and painter residing between Cape Town, South Africa and Bali. Carmen's artwork is endlessly inspired by her passion for understanding that there is more to life than meets the eye.

She explores the mystery and miracles of life within her work and uses holistic, spiritual and physical practices to support her immersive studio practice and to grow her capacity for embracing more joy.



Carmen's sculptures can be found throughout South Africa, London, Dubai and France including the art collection of film producer Arnon Milchan who ranks in the top three of Hollywood contemporary art collectors.

Her various works have been exhibited at Grande Provence and Art in the Yard Galleries in Franschhoek, MOK Gallery in Stellenbosch, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, The Viewing Room Gallery in Pretoria, and Sandton Hotel in Johannesburg.





BEYOND: MORE THAN FLESH AND BLOOD

BRONZE
LIMITED EDITION OF 8
1.2M (H) X 1.2M (W)

Transcending traditional representations of humanity and highlighting the inherent connection between our physical forms and the ethereal life force energy that animates from us.







CARTWHEELING FOR JOY

**CHROME PLATE WITH SEQUINS
SILICA SAND BASE
EDITION 1/1
90CM (H) X 70CM (W)**

I am cultivating the practice of seeking daily moments of joy, and my aspiration is that Cartwheeling for Joy inspires others to actively search for the miraculous and glorious moments that unfold around us each day.

COSMIC CONDUITS

BRONZE
LIMITED EDITION OF 8
1.74M (H) X 1.10M (W)

A celebratory testament to the power of the life force energy pulsating throughout the universe, within us and around us.

Fully surrendered, we become conduits for universal energy flow.

When we unlock this playful potential, it can be utilised for play, bliss, fun and healing.



Old Nick Village, Plettenberg Bay

DANCING SHIVA

BRONZE
LIMITED EDITION OF 10
1.1M (H) X 1M (W)

A flagship piece from the Transcending Ego collection, this sculpture captures the essence of upliftment and empowerment.

Concentration and balance reach their zenith, with posture refined to perfection.

It conveys intense focus and the invigorating sensation of deep breathing and lifting, creating an aura of spaciousness and the potential for transcendence.



Chateau Jurac, Bordeaux France

DIVINE KISS

BRONZE
LIMITED EDITION OF 5
3.3M (H) X 1.6M (W)

Transcending earthly boundaries and transforming a tender gesture into an extraordinary expression of cosmic love.

Capturing the real essence of a kiss, alchemizing the mundane, and touching the realm of the divine.





EMBRACE

BRONZE
LIMITED EDITION OF 12
165CM (H) X 30CM (W)

Embrace stemmed from a dialogue with ChatGPT about prevalent fears surrounding AI.

The result is a collaborative effort with AI creating two magnificent beings engaged in a poetic dance.

The sculpture mirrors humanity's internal beliefs, while fostering a narrative of trust and acceptance for the evolving relationship with AI.



Cederberg, South Africa





Plettenberg Bay,
South Africa

EXQUISITE KISS

BRONZE
LIMITED EDITION OF 10
1.36M (H) X 1M (W)

Expressing that perfect moment of being fully present, where time stands still, The Exquisite Kiss captures the essence of utter presence. In this singular, exquisite instant, nothing exists beyond the immediate experience.

The sculpture embodies the beauty and depth of this fleeting moment, reflecting a pure, transcendental experience.



Camps Bay, South Africa

HEADSTAND: KING OF ASANAS

BRONZE

LIMITED EDITION OF 10

136CM (H) X 80CM (W)

Capturing the revered headstand pose, often hailed as The King of Asanas, it embodies profound benefits for both body and mind.

Known for symbolizing strength, balance, and clarity, the piece reflects the pose's elegance and poise while highlighting its transformative effects on mental and physical well-being.



JOY

**RESIN WITH SEQUINS &
SILICA SAND BASE
EDITION 1/1
1.2M (H) X 1.5M (W)**

My authentic joy has not surfaced in spite of suffering, but rather as a direct consequence of it.

Confronting life's unavoidable trials and tribulations has been a transformative journey, gradually cultivating within me a profound sense of compassion, gratitude, and understanding.



RISE GODDESS RISE

BRONZE

LIMITED EDITION OF 10

1.3M (H) X 1M (W)





SURRENDERED GODDESS

BRONZE
LIMITED EDITION OF 10
1M (W) X 1.5M (L)

There she lay, in full surrender. She had not given up or given in, she had moved on. Become free.

Taking herculean courage, she had let go of past limiting thoughts and beliefs.

Confronting fears, after a life time of struggle and control, now trusting, becoming, into complete surrender.



Grand Provence Gallery,
Franschhoek, South Africa



WINGS TO FLY

BRONZE
LIMITED EDITION OF 12
29CM X 14CM X 22CM

Inspired by the poetic wisdom of Rumi, Wings to Fly captures the essence of liberation and transcendence.

Embodying the metaphorical wings that symbolize freedom, it allows the spirit to soar beyond earthly confines.

Reflecting Rumi's vision of spiritual elevation, the piece conveys a sense of boundless possibility and the profound joy of embracing one's true potential.

TRANSCENDING EGO COLLECTION

**SERIES OF 5 BRONZES
LIMITED EDITION OF 5
HEIGHTS 29CM - 52CM**

I am no longer aware of me, of having a body or shape as I sink into an abyss of bliss. I am only aware of a gentle guiding voice bringing my attention to the different elements of a form that I inhabit, and my breath...

I notice my breath...

The taming of my ego occurs with regular practice of yoga.





Future Vision

I am currently exploring themes that resonate deeply with the human experience.

Central to my upcoming projects is the exploration of human connection, compassion, empathy, and loving-kindness and how it is universal qualities that can unite us all, regardless of age, race, or background.

I am fascinated by the power of these emotions to foster sustainable joy and create meaningful connections among individuals and communities.



Artist Statement

What would it take for us to live in awe and wonder that this life is a miracle hidden in plain sight? In a fast-paced world, my art creates a space to pause, reflect, and honour the beauty of existence. I explore the delicate balance between recognizing life's extraordinary nature and embracing our tender, imperfect humanness. It is through this shared vulnerability that true connection and joy emerge.

My work is inspired by transformative experiences, moments of surrender, trust, and flourishing, that reveal the miracles of life. Through playful and thoughtful expression, I capture the transcendence of a dance, the present moment of a kiss, the letting go in yoga, and the compassion born from suffering. I would like to invite viewers to reflect on the invisible threads of connection, encouraging curiosity, kindness, and the recognition of our shared humanity.

Art allows me to express awe for life's magic and mystery, offering a reminder that we are all interconnected. Through this language, I hope to inspire others to pause, look deeper, and feel a little more miraculous and a little less alone.

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