



# Bonnie Collura

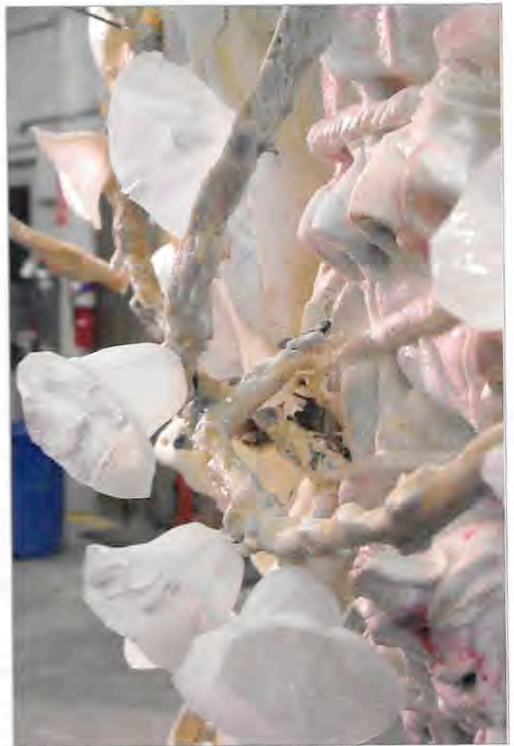
A Symptom of Beauty (*obsessions on an ideal*)



# Bonnie Collura

In Collura's work we see a reappearance of human interest; she is returning an aesthetic resonance to post- abstraction sculpture. Cross pollinating mythology and popular culture, the artist's fantasmic fairytale imagery relies as much on Bernini as Walt Disney. As every tradition in art is an integral part of art history, the advance of art goes hand and hand with that of humanity. Art's history churns just beneath the surface of her work; Collura samples Greek mythology, Renaissance Sculpture, biblical stories, Fairy tales and pop culture icons to create a new nonlinear narrative.

Collura is a recipient of a 2005 Guggenheim Fellowship for her four part body of work entitled "The Prince Project", an offshoot of which is the work entitled "Spiral". Measuring 132 inches tall and 43 inches deep, this twirling mixed media sculpture was inspired by Bernini's Saint Ludovico. Fascinated by the moment of mystic vision before her death, Collura portrays the "mystical rapture" as a combination of elation and deflation as Saint Sebastian, Mickey Mouse and other icons of pop culture melt together, lifted to the sky by inflating balloons while being dragged back to earth by piercing aluminum arrows. Entwined in aluminum and felt vines and silicon poppies, "Spiral's" Sanctity is a study in contradiction.



*Spiral (detail) - mixed media -132 x 43 x 43 inches*

In her work "Death of the Virgin", Collura's psychologically insightfulness transcends the subject's historical content, forcing the viewer to consider the universal, the archetype captured in the absolute existential present. Rendering saint and sinner alike, the artist accepts individual, not class, social status or fantasy as the proper object of visual engagement. Like a master filmmaker, Collura draws the viewer into the scene at the last possible, most dramatic moment. She penetrates the mystery of religious mythology by returning human experience to the essential human condition. By simultaneously deconstructing mythology and liberating the viewer to see life as he or she actually lives it, not as others would have one conditioned to accept it, the artist is attempting to rearrange the canons of art history from a female perspective.

Collura's works are in the permanent collections of: Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dallas Museum of Contemporary Art, Dallas, Texas; Weatherspoon Art Gallery, North Carolina; Köln Sculpture Park, Köln, Germany and the Kunstwegen, Nordhorn, Germany. She has been exhibited at: Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Musee d'Art Contemporain, Avignon, France; Weatherspoon Art Gallery, North Carolina; Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT; Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL; Hudson Valley Center of Contemporary Art, Peekskill, NY; Yale University Gallery, New Haven, CT; Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA; Köln Sculpture Park, Köln, Germany; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX

Collura's awards include: The Guggenheim Fellowship Award: Sculpture 2005; John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation New York, NY; Emerging Artist Award, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT

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