

Jennifer Ellis - Artist's Statement

I have found inspiration for my work in the rocky landscape of the west coast of Sweden. The movement of the sea over the rocks reveals fascinating patterns, colours and abstractions and with my camera I have attempted to capture these works of nature. Discovering a new rock picture is very exciting - like an archeologist uncovering traces of a distant past:

In my photography I want to highlight the intricate patterns and tracery found in the surface of the rock and so it is important to isolate the image from its setting. My pictures are printed on watercolour paper as this gives a soft finish and enhances the subtle colour tones.

The wonderful contrast of soft, smooth hollows found amidst the hardness of the rocks has inspired my sculpture. Water has sculpted out these smooth forms by washing over the surface of the rock for eons of time. It is this combination of soft and hard that drew me to work with clay which is a medium that embodies both these qualities. It is also a medium with which the artist must work in harmony and intimacy. In the early stages of creating a sculpture it is the clay that often dictates the initial form and as the clay gradually hardens I take command to carve the final figure. My use of metallic glazes is to enhance the illusion of hardness.

I feel a great affection for my figures and hope they evoke similar feelings in others.

My work reflects over themes related to "time" - in the sense of time passing and "life" in an existential sense. At present I am working on an installation which considers the way in which we interact and how this has changed with the advent of electronic communication.