



Tracy H Sugg Private Collection

ART REVEALING HERSELF TO HUMANITY
Allegorical Female Figure

\$ 2500

signed and dated: *Signature in pencil on back, no date c.2010*
stoneware clay, paua shell inlay, Swarovski crystals
26.5 x 11 in.



PROVENANCE

Private Collection of Sculptor Tracy H Sugg c. 2010 to present



NOTES

Art Revealing Herself to Humanity was inspired by the sculpture “Nature Unveiling Herself before Science” by Louis Ernst Barrias in 1899. The idea of an allegorical female figure revealing herself to the world inspired me to use a similar concept regarding Art. This was also somewhat of a ‘masters study’ where I intentionally try to emulate part of the composition of Barrias in my own sculpture.

I was also studying the sculpture from the Art Nouveau era, which often involved mixed media in sculpture. It is common to find sculptural figures that are part bronze and part ivory, etc. Also the use of inlay and jewelry was introduced into works of sculpture. This is probably due to the great influence that Alphonse Mucha had on the style of that time. Another element of sculptures from that era was the use of colors, enamels and paints - monochromatic sculptures had to bow to the new taste of mixed color and patinas.

In this particular sculpture, I decided to keep the fabric wrapped around the figure as ‘raw’ clay through the rough texture, gestural quality of sculpting and the monochromatic clay color. This provides a perfect backdrop for the drama of the figure herself. For the skin tones I created a varnish mixed with paints to brush over the skin tones. I used a deep jewel toned blue oil paint, Prussian Blue, for her dress with gilded accents, but the *tour de force* for the whole sculpture was my experimenting with the use of inlays and crystals.

I had paua shell that I cut to size using a jeweler’s saw. I inlayed in each with moulding plaster. Then I set in tiny Swarovski crystals with epoxy to complete the design. I was very pleased with how natural sunlight would play off the rich colors and crystals when the sculpture was displayed near a window. I intended for this sculpture to be seen frontally, as I would place it against a wall near a window.

Though I did not sign the sculpture in the clay since I intended it for my own collection, it will be signed on the back in pencil –this follows industry standard protocol for signing a sculpture after firing.

The purchase of *Art Revealing Herself to Humanity* includes a signed certificate of authenticity from the sculptor