



My interest in Sculpting the Human Body.

The experience of working with clay to model the human form is essentially sensual; the feel of shaping the clay in response to a perception of the model has to work from all angles to create a plausible 3d form; I think this depends on being able to accurately judge/measure the elements of the body in relation to the whole and translating this more technical aspect with both manual skill and sensitivity. Having large hands, I can find working on delicate details, such as an ear, hand or foot very challenging but also strangely absorbing act of creation.

Representing the body seems to me to be the ultimate challenge in that it is always easy to see if a figure is out of proportion, if it doesn't work or convince as a functioning body. At the moment I'm learning how the more you work at a figure the more you begin to see how the underlying muscles work together and determine how the flesh lies or falls over the bone. I respect the knowledge and understanding physiotherapists require. As a psychotherapist by profession, while I'm interested in and affected by the posture, expression and body tension of my clients I am primarily interested in the underlying structure of the personality and how the history of an individual's development shapes who they are. Working with someone to explore and reach an understanding of their particular personality is curiously similar to the process of modelling the figure in clay; in each case it involves an inquiry, whether verbal or more a matter of getting a feel for what you are seeking to understand and finding a way to express it.

Having been a psychotherapist for 40yrs. I always longed to do more creative work as well; I eventually did a " Fine Art, Drawing" degree 14yrs ago, having done a fair amount of Life drawing previously (and since). There wasn't an option to do sculpture as part of this degree course which was a big loss; all the same I think the learning involved, training the eye, particularly in Life drawing, which is largely about looking carefully and then trying to honestly convey what you see without making assumptions, does transfer to sculpting.

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