

After a sell-out solo show in 2010, French artist Valérie Goutard Andrianoff (Val) is returning to REDSEA Gallery with “Moments”, a new collection of 30 contemporary bronze sculptures. We asked Val for an insight into the inspiration for four of the pieces in the collection, and the work that went into them.



Photography by Roland Neveu

SEIZING THE MOMENT

VILLE FANTASTIQUE ▶

This was a very challenging piece to make. Creatively, I had to make sure that it didn't get too oppressive; I did this by creating space and adding light throughout each segment. Technically, it was very difficult



to mould – each individual piece had to be sliced like a ham and cast individually, then reassembled to fit together perfectly. The characters in this piece appear differently depending on how the architecture is assembled. When the pieces are separate, there is a couple dancing on the roof; when you assemble the pieces, they are together dancing inside a room – it's like they are oblivious to everything else around them and are just having fun by themselves.

HIDE AND SEEK II ▶

The concept came from an earlier piece, *Hide and Seek*, but I increased the size and scale. The inspiration was a temple in Sukhothai, Thailand. As you open the door of the temple and walk in, a Buddha statue is slowly revealed. I liked this concept of a door and looking in, and I worked on that. There are two characters: outside is the voyeur, while the one inside is very much in her own world. I see the flat outside wall as the masculine side, while inside is more feminine and voluptuous. It was hard to increase the size of this piece because I needed to find a way to keep the lightness and freshness of the message, to keep the poetry. In the end I had to make the 'walls' much thinner to balance the height.



How it happens

Unlike most modern sculptors, Val employs traditional bronze casting methods, working with a foundry outside of Bangkok, where she lives. Each individual piece goes through a lengthy process of creating, moulding, casting and finishing with a patina. Working initially in wax (traditional clay would dry too quickly in the tropical heat), Val creates a piece, and then she and her professionally trained team make a resin mock-up and then the full bronze sculpture. In total, 12 pieces are cast from each design, but because of the traditional methods used, every one of these is worked on individually and so is a unique work of art in its own right.

HEAD IN THE SKY ▼

“This is a very interesting piece for me. This sculpture evolved during the recent terrible flooding in Thailand. We were lucky: compared with so many people, we lost relatively little and our suffering was so small. However, the foundry where my sculptures are made was affected – it had to close and many of the workers lost their homes. Production stopped for a month, but it meant I was able to work on designs with no distractions. I woke up one morning and started *Head in the Sky* and didn’t stop for three days until it was complete. This was also my first step towards big architecture (it’s over 180cm tall), and one of three life-sized versions in this collection.”



TANGO II ▲

“This piece draws on my fondness for playing with the relationship between architecture and figures. I like the contradiction between the sharp lines of the window and the texture of the figures. The window helps to express the intimacy of the moment. Adding to the strength of the characters is the tenderness of the posture and the tilt of the heads. And your eyes are drawn to the way they hold one another as a couple – it is as if they are flying, yet actually the man still has one foot on the ground.”

A word from the gallery

“This is an immensely exciting exhibition. Val’s pieces have been continually well received since we introduced her to the Singapore market back in 2008, but what makes this particular collection so exciting is to see how Val has developed her approach and created these incredible life-sized pieces without losing that sense of lightness and emotion that underlies all her work. We know that this exhibition will be huge. Val has a gift that must not be underestimated; it is rare for people to view her pieces and not be moved by them.”

Chris Churcher, Managing Director, REDSEA Gallery

“Moments” opens on 31 March and runs for two weeks, presenting the first opportunity for Singapore-based collectors and art lovers to view or buy Val’s new works before they are taken onto the world stage.

REDSEA Gallery is at Block 9 Dempsey Road. For more information, visit www.redseagallery.com or call 6732 6711. 