



# Figures

The Sculpture of André Stead



# Female Series

## André Stead

Born in Evander, 1975. Lives and works in Cape Town.

André attended the Pro Arte School of Arts in Pretoria (1989 - 1993) where he majored in painting and graphics. He received various merits and awards, including work being selected for the Iscor Permanent Art Collection. In 1994 he moved to Cape Town where he trained in metal work (forging, welding and metallurgical theory) under the direction of John Allesandri.

During 2001 André started working at the Bronze Age Art Foundry where he became efficient in all the various stages of the lost-wax casting process (cire perdue) and become a partner at the Bronze Age Art Foundry (2004 - 2007). To encourage bronze sculpturing as an art form he developed a foundry sculpture course, which taught students all the various aspects of bronze sculpture production.

During 2007 Andre was commissioned to create nine large bronze relief panels to be laid into marble floors of the Burj Dubai Development in Dubai (tallest man-made structure in the world). In 2008 Stead created a series of figurative studies of the female form and showcased the series in Cape Town in 2009.



## Female series

The Female Series is a collection of figurative works that form part of a study of the female. The point of origin for the study into the female psyche as the foundation for a series of work came from a discussion with a young, French woman, about “modern men and women”. She said that men had become increasingly insecure in their role in society and that women have become more independent and often earn more than their husbands. Women raise children, run their household and manage careers, all at once. Women seem to have evolved into alignment with modern society more efficiently than their male counterparts. The series investigates the various roles of the female in a modern society.

## Venus

Venus portrays the classical image of a beautiful woman and the idea of romantic love. The image of Botticelli's Birth of Venus, a 14th century masterpiece, depicts the goddess of love as a young and beautiful woman, and she personifies the ideal beauty of youth. As the role of women in modern society has changed over hundreds of years so has the idea of the ideal beauty. The Venus sculpture challenges the modern perception society has of women by comparing the female to a popular idea of beauty from the 14th century.

During this period in history women were commodities traded for land in arranged marriages, hardly the romantic ideal of Botticelli's Birth of Venus painting. Perhaps it is the idea of a perfect love that captures our imagination and made this work so popular. How have attitudes changed and what image do we have of a woman now in this day and age?



Venus  
2007  
Bronze  
680 x 280 x 180 mm





Venus  
2007  
Bronze  
680 x 280 x 180 mm



## Roslyn

This figure captures a scene of romantic euphoria with her shy but inviting stance. The piece portrays a young woman in love and represents the primal desire all people have to be held and loved. She personifies the modern, liberated woman, assertive and independent and she knows what she wants in life and in love. There is however no amount of independence that can replace the need for companionship and sanctuary and it is this that ultimately defines our nature as humans.

Roslyn  
2007  
Bronze  
875 x 430 x 255 mm







## Lindy

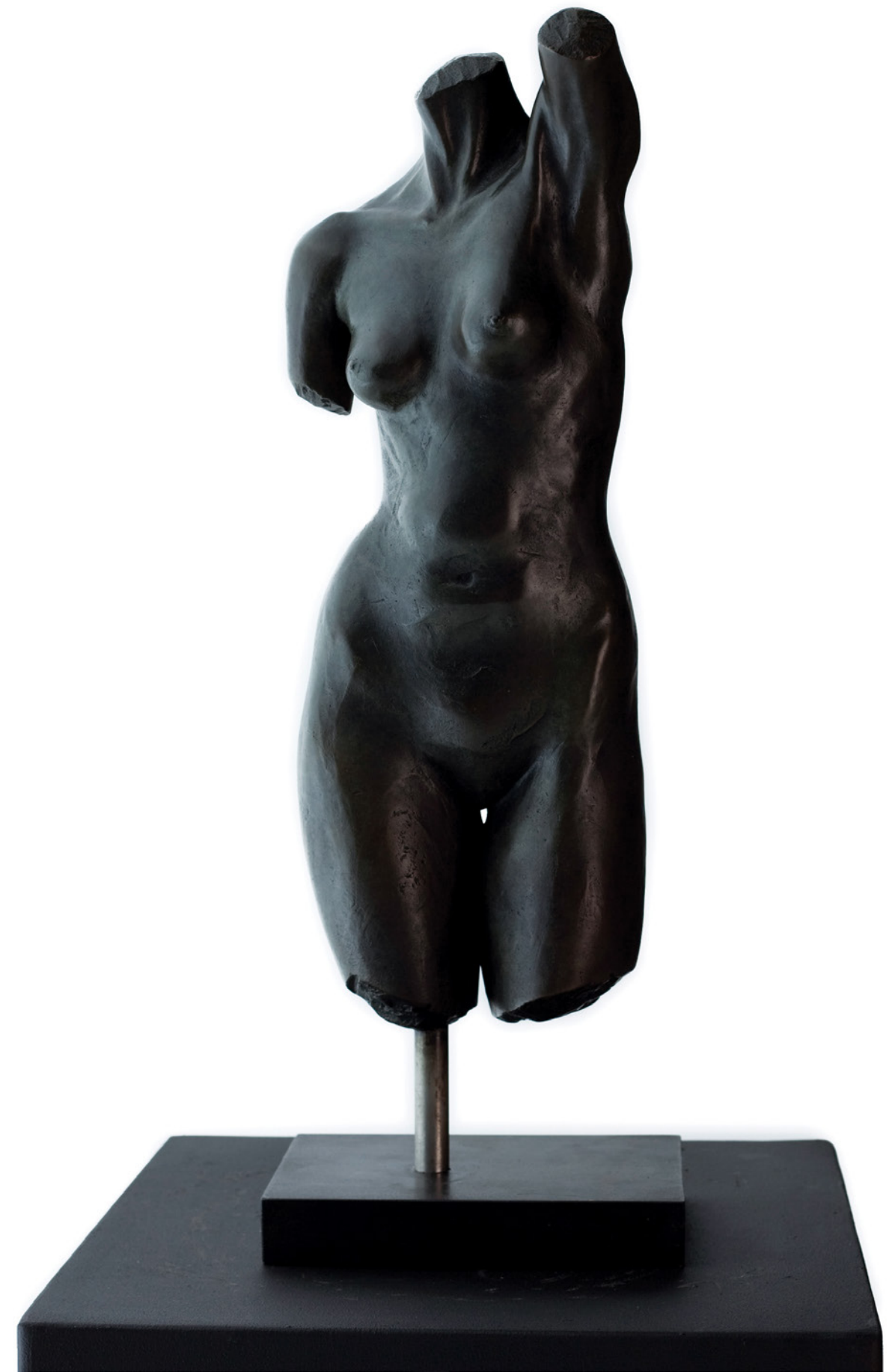
Lindy represents the search for love and portrays a young woman who seemingly peers into the distance, as if looking for something. She gazes upward, shielding her eye, epitomizing the search for love in a modern world. In a time where everything moves at the speed of light one could live a lifetime and never find an honest true love, or perhaps find it was right in front of you all along, all you had to do was stop and see it.

Lindy  
2007  
Bronze  
940 x 230 x 210 mm





Lindy Torso  
2007  
Bronze  
555 x 190 x 155 mm







## Jane

The Jane sculpture represents the eternal mother and embodies the graceful figure of a young woman expecting a baby. She is the giver of life, but more importantly she will sustain that life. A mother will care and nurture her young until they are ready to face the world on their own and even die defending them against peril if necessary. The love for her unborn child is unconditional and as the baby grows so does the live long bond between mother and child.

Jane  
2008  
Bronze  
730 x 290 x 250 mm



## Jade

Jade explores the realm of dreams and with her flowing hair and seemingly weightless body appears to defy gravity and reality. She is the dream girl, submerged in a subliminal state, as if in water, and carried by a current on a virtual sea of emotion. The element of water and its various associations to emotion, the subconscious mind, even sexuality, and fertility play an important part in the symbolism of the piece as it probes the depths of the female psyche.

### Jade

Maquette

2008

Bronze

1200 x 320 x 250 mm





Jade  
Life size  
2008  
Resin  
1690 x 1600 x 600 mm





Jade  
Life size  
2008  
Resin  
1690 x 1600 x 600 mm





  
GRANDE PROVENCE  
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*Heritage Wine Estate*  
FRANSCHHOEK · SOUTH AFRICA

ANDRE *Stead.*  
SCULPTURE

Andre Stead launched the female series at the 2009 Winter Good Food & Wine Show in Cape Town at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. The launch event was hosted by the Grande Provence Heritage Wine Estate, Stellenbosch.



## André Stead

Born in Evander, 1975. Lives and works in Cape Town.

### Qualifications and awards

2007 Eight years bronze casting experience, Bronze Age Art Foundry, Simon's town

1997 Metal forging tuition, John Allesandri, Cape Town

1995 Graphic design course, Gunther Komnick, Cape Town

1994 Goldsmith apprenticeship, Pretoria

1993 Pro Arte School of Arts, Distinction with colours for Art, Pretoria

1991 Merit award, Iscor Art Competition, Iscor Permanent Art Collection, Pretoria

### Selected Exhibitions and Commissions

2009

Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg

Identity, group exhibition, Platform on 18th Gallery, Pretoria

Figures, solo exhibition, Northcliff, Johannesburg

Female series launch, Grande Provence Heritage Wine Estate, CTICC

2008

Angels, group exhibition, Grande Provence Gallery, Franschoek

Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town

Medallions, Corporate Commission, Burj Dubai Development, Dubai

2006

Corporate commission, Graham Beck Wine Estate, Franschoek

Group exhibition, Bronze Age Sculpture House, Cape Town

2000 – 2005

Group exhibition, Seidelberg Wine Estate, Paarl

Miniatures, group exhibition, Bronze Age, Cape Town

Board of Executors, Corporate commission, Cape Town

Group exhibition, Vineyard Gallery, Cape Town

1999

Group exhibition, The Christie Gallery, Cape Town

Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town

1998

Wooden figures, Solo exhibition, Novalis Institute, Cape Town

Sanlam Restoration - Award, Corporate commission, Sanlam, Cape Town

Group exhibition, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town

1997

Sanlam Literary Award, Corporate commission, Sanlam, Grahamstown

Group exhibition, Primart Gallery, Cape Town

### Collections

Johnny Walker Stride Awards

Graham Beck Estates

Board of Executives

Hal Shaper

Sanlam

Iscor

Sculpture photos by: Andrew Parker



Photograph: Grant Stead - St Paul de Vence

  
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[www.andresteadsculpture.com](http://www.andresteadsculpture.com)