

# Artists

## CREATING MEANING

WORDS ALICIA DU PLESSIS

The Midlands is home to many great artists and if you don't take some time to really look, you might miss them. Here are three local artists using various media to make their art, from painting to printmaking, and some bronze sculptures in between - for each of them it's about soul, beauty, and peace.





## Casting The Beautiful In Bronze



PHOTO KEVERN SANDALLS

Originally born in Durban, Sarah Richards is now based in Balgowan and has been an artist all her life, drawing, painting, and making sculptures. She has been immersed in working with the bronze medium for over 20 years now, creating sculptures in various shapes and sizes, from wild animals, dogs, birds, and busts. She studied Fine Art at the Durban Technikon from 1985 to 1990, majoring in sculpture, and received her Master's in Fine Art in 2008 through the Durban University of Technology.

Sarah's process starts with creating the specific subject to be sculpted in homemade plasticine

or wax, after which she sends the modelled piece to the foundry to be cast in bronze. She has two foundries in the Midlands: the KZN Bronze Casting Foundry, which is based in Lidgettton, and the Falconer Foundry in Mooi River. Having these foundries close to her allows her to be involved in the casting process, making her sculptures ever more personal from start to finish. Sarah's muse is nature, and she continuously strives to deepen her connection to it. She believes that we, human beings, have forgotten our place within it, separating ourselves by fear and/or superiority.

Ultimately, we are a part of nature and, as Sarah explains, we can "feed from it, grow, and mature in it". Her deepening connection to nature is expressed through her art, and in turn, this inspires others. She is currently creating work that touches on her relationship with nature, she describes it as a "force", and her goal is to understand herself, find growth, and calm through this force.

Sarah's sculptures have sold locally and internationally, and she received numerous commissions for public and private spaces. Some have been monumental, measuring three metres in height, and others have been small collector pieces. Her bronze sculptures can be found at the Platform Gallery in Lion's River. She also displays at galleries in Durban, Hoedspruit, and Gauteng and on her online website.

