

LEANNE OLIVIER:
MYTHOLOGY & LEGEND





GEDAANTE VERWISSELING

Artist: Leanne Olivier
Instagram: @leanne_ol14



South African artist specializing in oil painting and expanding my knowledge of sculpture. My aim is to create works that may inspire/challenge people to create their own mythology and legend. It is about not taking yourself so seriously, to move beyond your conditioning and ideas about yourself and the world.

I owe my love of the arts to a conglomeration of events, things and people. Growing up, I was fortunate to have a father that taught me HOW to think and not WHAT to think. He never gave easy answers and I had to do my research about things of the world (challenging systems of belief and ideas of normality). This is what I try to do in my art - I try to depict an

idea or feeling that goes beyond the instruction/construction of race and gender. I align myself with like-minded people and artists - people who question ways of being in the world and strive to be free, or at least their own version of being free.

In my latest series of works - "Gedaanteverwisseling" (roughly translated, meaning the "metamor-

phosis of a creature/beast") - I explore constructed notions surrounding humanity in relation to animality. It raises this question:

"Can I be human without the animal, the subjugated Other par excellence? Derrida [in explains that in relegating the human to a distinct, superior realm of difference from the animal, we have come



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to think that humans are the only animals that can be truly naked at all. This is because this feeling of shame reveals that we have knowledge of ourselves (as naked and otherwise), ostensibly unlike other animals. But we forget that this "knowledge" arose only in connection to and by invocation of the animal.

The dark clay-slip (mixture of clay and water) painted of the models is used as a mask - it is a play between revealing and concealing. The clay is transmutative - the characters have the opportunity to move beyond their ideas about sex, gender and the purpose of the human body.

I'm not very sentimental about any specific artwork. Towards the completion of an artwork I already have a new idea/ a next painting. However, two of my favourite works - "Soft Repose" and "A Whiter

Shade of Frail" are portraits of a close friend. He, an artist himself, has had an enormous impact on my art.





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A WHITER SHADE OF FRAIL

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