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Writing Sample - Thesis

# TANYA MARIE ROBINSON

## A New Portrayal of Women

In this thesis I have focused my efforts in ceramic sculpture in several life studies and two mixed media pieces to explore an honest and contemporary depiction of the female form. I feel that the female form has been over idealized from Greek sculptural representations to modern times. Art work that has traditionally depicted the female form as an idealized subject – and object – have limited her roles. Themes that have been depicted as decidedly female contain ideas like the Madonna, the nurturer, the lover and the idle nude – all making a women's role feel very one dimensional.

As a woman artist I can offer a female perspective on women and our roles. My sculptures show more natural women. My mixed media sculptures feature female figures that are suspended in a makeshift cage. They hang caged by society's standards and pressures. By showing more natural less idealized women in my work and having them bound, my sculptures represent the pressure society places on us to resist being ourselves. Their cages are not gilded: they are made from old weathered wood, representing dated ideas. The figures are wrapped in wire illustrating how these ideas are not so easily shed. There's nothing to glamorize when discussing women's over-sexualized portrayal in modern society.

I started my journey as an interior designer, which prepared my mind to think in terms of a three-dimensional environment. I sculpt from what I have learned in sculpture classes ranging from glass blowing to metal work and from life studies in figure drawing studio. My choice of medium is white porcelain clay. The glaze is a creamy matt finished with a delicate biscuit spotting that gives the affect of marbled stone.

I chose this subject for my thesis because of my appreciation of the female form. I also feel the truth can be more stimulating than any exaggerated fabrication of a woman's form and role.