

LEADING SCULPTOR TO DONATE A SHARE OF EXHIBITION PROCEEDS TO PROTECT ANIMALS

One of New Zealand's top sculptors will be entwining locally created art with global conservation when her latest exhibition is staged in Auckland this month. Mythos, Shona Lyon's new collection of approximately 25 works in bronze, has distinctive themes of physicality and the human-animal relationship, and the sculptor is deliberately connecting her work with related causes by donating part of the proceeds from sales of her animal statues. For each of her orangutan sculptures, Ms Lyon will donate \$250 to [Orangutan Foundation International](#); every sale of a lion sculpture will prompt a \$1,000 donation to For the Love of Wildlife, which funds animal protection projects in Australia, New Zealand, and Africa; and a donation of \$300 will be made to the SPCA for every set of cat sculptures sold. And for every life-size African child bronze sculpture sold, Shona will sponsor a child for two years.

Of the philanthropic motivation behind the Mythos exhibition, Ms Lyon says, "I want my art to engage with people's hearts before their brains, and many people are like me in that they feel an instinctive connection to the natural world. I am very passionate about animals, and I believe I can use my sculptures to build awareness about conservation and animal protection while donating to organisations working at the coalface."

Donalea Patman, the founder of For the Love of Wildlife, says, "The brutal and unscrupulous industry of canned hunting is where lions are hand-raised to be shot in an enclosed area, often drugged and/or baited. Volunteers and tourists are duped into believing they are hand-raising 'orphaned cubs,' only to find that the cub they bottle-fed will end up in the death camps, to be bought by an overseas hunter for a quick, efficient and guaranteed kill.

"Our work started with getting the Australian Government to ban the importation of lion trophies, a global first. We continue to put an end to this horrendous industry with targeted demand reduction campaigns, education about volunteerism and continued collaborations with our partners, Blood Lions. Thank you, Shona, for your generous donation from the sale of these beautiful sculptures. Lions are disappearing, and with there is much work to do and this money helps enormously in closing the captive breeding of lions and other big cats."

Shona Lyon also provides sculpting at cost to charities working to save endangered species, such as the huge albatross made and donated to attract nesting birds in the Chatham Islands. She says, "I believe from an ethical point of view that any person or company that uses any animal for promotional purposes should stand by their brand and pay some of the

proceeds to help those animals. We pay for human models when we use them, and I would love to see the same approach when we use animals or their images to push any product or service. The philanthropic aspect of Mythos is designed to get people thinking about this.”

In addition to the animal sculptures she has created for Mythos, Ms Lyon has drawn inspiration from the Myths of the Ages. She says, “Myths tell us the stories of the past. These archetypes act as mirrors in which we can see a reflection of various parts of ourselves, both the light and the shadow. My art attempts to de-personalise these myths, so that we can personalise them into the stories and emotions of our own lives.”

Ms Lyon’s art reflects her own reinvention; she meditates to get into the right mental space before she begins the creations of her sculptures. Shona loves to push the boundaries of classical Sculpture by introducing new modern mediums into the mix. Developing sculptures that are complex in both form and content. Until 2006, she worked in the business world, but a trip to France introduced her to the love of her life – sculpture. She returned to New Zealand and began the process of extricating herself from business and entering the realm of art. On subsequent visits to France, Ms Lyon trained privately in the Loire Valley under Master Sculptor Martine Vaugel.

Ms Lyon says, “I am blessed and very grateful for the mix I now have in my life. I try to balance my sculpting supply business with sculpting itself, along with investing and consulting. I am an angel investor with the Ice Angels and I love being part of a group of people that supports Kiwi entrepreneurs. I love using both sides of my brain – the creative and the business.”

Beyond Mythos, watch this space: Ms Lyon has long-term goals to establish an art foundation and a dedicated school of sculpture, which does not yet exist in New Zealand.



The Mythos preview event will be held from 6pm on 12 June, and the exhibition will run from 15 to 29 June (Tue-Fri 2pm to 6pm, Sat-Sun 10am to 4pm) at 10/16 Taylors Road, St Lukes, Auckland.

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About Shona Lyon

Shona Lyon is an Auckland-based professional sculptor specialising in figurative and portrait bronze sculptures. Shona's sculptures are based on the principles of sacred geometry and the classical sculptural techniques introduced to her by her mentor, International Master Sculptor Martine Vaugel. Shona was fortunate to train privately under Martine in France and will be forever grateful for her inspiration and guidance. Shona also provides group workshops on sculpting and offers private one-on-one tuition.

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