

Neil Grant,

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### **Artist statement**

Correctly rendered gestures, facial expressions and forms are a universal language that can be understood by all, and in mastering the techniques to produce them, my work becomes accessible to its audience. I work in clay because of the subtlety of expression that can be conveyed by a slight volume added to an eye or lip: a small upward curve of the lower eyelid transforms a forced smile into one of genuine joy. We are all expert in reading faces and gestures, and the ability to produce these in my art allows the viewer to connect with my work.

My art makes social commentary, often using humor, or alternatively invites the viewer to contemplate the piece's story by observing the subtleties of its realistically rendered physical form. In creating these pieces I'm influenced by protest artists such as Banksy, and master sculptors such as and Philippe Faraut, Bruno Luchessi and Beth Cavener Stichter.

Every day, I use the art of deliberate practice to challenge both my technical skills and the boundaries of my creativity. By pushing myself in this structured way, my work becomes artistically enriched and the piece becomes more engaging for the viewer.

### **Artist biography**

Neil Grant is a national award-winning figurative sculptor who finished a twenty-year corporate career to dedicate himself to his craft. He lives in Cape Cod, Massachusetts where he sculpts out of his studio and teaches classes and workshops at art centers across the Cape. He commonly works in ceramic, resin, and bronze, and has recently moved into digital sculpting as part of his artistic process.

From 2019 to 2021, Neil was the Director of Clay Arts at Cotuit Center for the Arts, where working with a team of talented people he was responsible for the set-up and launch of the John and Marjorie McGraw Family Ceramics Studio. His responsibilities included leading the team of ceramic artists who designed the internal space, purchasing the equipment, recruiting over a dozen instructors, and creating the programming for the studio. After successfully launching the studio's ceramic program, he relaunched in-person classes in August 2020 before recruiting his replacement in mid-2021 to allow him to return to his vocation as a sculptor and teacher.

Neil has been represented by Bowersock Gallery since 2018 and has studied under nationally recognized sculptors such as Philippe Faraut and Brian Booth Craig.

### **Exhibitions**

The Modern Male 3, Bowersock Gallery, Provincetown – 2021

Interpretation, Bowersock Gallery, Provincetown – 2019

Dysfunctional: A Ceramics Exhibition, Cotuit Center for the Arts (co-curator and exhibiting artist) - 2020

Winter Art Exhibit, Art Foundation of Cape Cod – 2019  
National Sculpture Society's 85th Annual Awards Exhibition - 2018  
Escapees From A Little Black Book (solo exhibition), Cotuit Center for the Arts - 2018  
Winter Art Exhibit, Art Foundation of Cape Cod - 2018  
All New England Exhibit, Cape Cod Art Association – 2017  
Artist's Vision Exhibit, Cape Cod Art Association - 2017  
Winter Art Exhibit, Art Foundation of Cape Cod - 2017  
All New England Exhibit, Cape Cod Art Association – 2016  
Faculty Show, Falmouth Arts Center – 2016

### **Awards**

Best Choice for Subject Matter, The Works Exhibit, Cultural Center of Cape Cod – 2019  
The Fred and Cheryl Newby Patrons Award, National Sculpture Society's 85th Annual Awards Exhibition - 2018  
First place for sculpture, All New England Exhibit, Cape Cod Art Association – 2017  
Second place for sculpture, Artist's Vision Exhibition, Cape Cod Art Association, 2017  
Honorable mention, The National Exhibit, Cape Cod Art Association - 2017  
Most Creative Award, All New England Exhibit, Cape Cod Art Association – 2016

### **Courses/Workshops Taught**

Learn to Sculpt (6 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2021  
Learn to Sculpt Portraits at Home from photographs (10 weeks) – on-line class, Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2021  
Learn to Sculpt the Planes of the Face - on-line class (6 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2021  
Learn to Sculpt Portraits at Home - on-line class (6 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2020  
Learn Portrait Sculpture, (8 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2020  
The Art of Making Objects Out of Clay (6 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2020  
Mold making workshop, Rhode Island School of Design, 2019  
Learn to Make Silicone Molds Workshop (5 days), Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2019  
Portrait Sculpture Workshop (2 days), Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2019  
Advanced Handbuilding (8 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2019  
Handbuilding in Clay (8 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2019  
Portrait Workshop (2 days), Cultural Center of Cape Cod, 2019  
Portrait Sculpture Winter 2019 (10 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts, 2019  
Sculpting the Torso (10 weeks) Cotuit Center for the Arts - 2018  
Introduction to Figure Sculpting (10 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts - 2017  
Sculpting with a Slab Roller (10 weeks), Falmouth Arts Center -2017

Sculpting Realistic Heads in Clay (2 day workshop), Cotuit Center for the Arts - 2017  
Portrait Sculpture series (26 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts - 2017  
Portrait Sculpture (10 weeks), Cotuit Center for the Arts – 2016  
Sculpting The Figure - Scenic City Clay Arts, Chattanooga, TN – 2 day workshop – 2015

### **Collections**

Neil's work is represented in many private collections through sales by Bowersock Gallery. Notable collections include:

Private Collection, Marjorie McGraw, Cape Cod  
Private Collection, 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Royal Logistics Corp, UK  
Private Collection, Mr. Matthew McClelland, Tennessee  
Private Collection, Mr. Marcus McKamey, Georgia  
Private Collection, Ms. Cheryl O'Brien, Tennessee

### **Education**

2015 – Holmberg Arts Leadership Certificate- a four-month program that develops leadership skills necessary to prepare the participants for prominent roles within arts organizations  
2012 – Senior Executive Program, Columbia University  
1997 – MSc Water Pollution Control Technology, Cranfield University, UK  
1995 – BSc Marine Biology, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK

### **Courses attended:**

Grant Abbitt - Blender Character Creator Design Course - 2021  
Philippe Faraut – Figure Sculpting Course – 2016  
Philippe Faraut – Advanced Portrait Course – 2015  
Brian Booth Craig – Sketching In Clay – 2015  
Brian Booth Craig – Portrait Sculpture – 2014  
Roberto Osti - Anatomy Of The Figure Drawing Workshop – 2013  
Brian Booth Craig – Figure Sculpture – 2013

### **Affiliations:**

National Sculpture Society: 2013 – present  
Cotuit Center for the Arts – 2016 - present