Statement

Jan Niedojadlo

Our sense of taste, smell, touch, sight and sound are ways in which we understand and communicate with one another. This is what my work is about.
When you were a child exploring an armchair for the first time - do you remember the smell and texture of the material ? - those corners you wedged your hands into, the ledges and slopes, and that button you could never pull off ? Then this object of fascination became that boring old armchair. Before this moment their was great intrigue and a thousand possibilities. I am interested in that instant before you rationalise and familiarise an object.
Through my sculptures I am reintroducing this form of stimulation and exploration into the experience of Art. When you go for a walk in the forest you can smell the damp leaves below, touch the rough bark, put the soft furry bud to your lips and look up to see the canopy of leaves ablaze and translucent by the sun. These moments leave you with a profound sense of oneself in front of nature.
When you step inside one of my sculptures you step outside the gallery and enter a world of curious atmospheres and subtle sounds, and, as in a forest, a sense of awe and mystery is felt. This wide eyed approach is one of a child, which as part of the adult makes us flexible, vital and creative.
Often with Contemporary Art our ‘senses’ are neglected for the intellect. I think we should assess art through all our senses first, before reason runs away with itself.
When people go into my sculptures I want them to feel unique through their own sense of wonder and discovery at what emotions are stirred. Just as a walk in a forest can move people, art can be appreciated by all of us when it is at our fingertips.