

Human Trafficking: Reclaiming Freedom



Detail of "Wrapped & Bound"

Carien Quiroga

South African born, Carien Quiroga, is an award-winning Visual Artist and Art Educator, creating multimedia artworks and mosaic public art. Her work which is widely exhibited in her native South Africa and in the USA, deals with the feminine principle and her experiences as a woman focusing on social justice and political issues surrounding women, children and the environment.

As a Teaching Artist she works extensively in Schools, with Non-profit organizations, Community Art Programs and in Correctional Facilities to enrich their communities through visual art collaborations and projects. She is on the Maryland State Arts Council, Artivate: Project Youth ArtReach, and Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County Teaching & Community Artist Rosters.

Ms. Quiroga's work, whether it is in an educational environment or creating her personal artworks or public artworks, reflects her passion as an artist and a strong belief in the power of art to transform and impact lives in a positive way.

Artist Statement

"Wrapped and Bound" is a visual response to the peril of human trafficking as it exists in the ongoing threat to vulnerable men, women and children globally. The artwork, consisting of kiln-formed glass images depicting human body parts wrapped and seemingly tied up and framed by layers of metal nails, is commentary on the entrapment and violation of defenseless millions. Bound bodies, broken glass and nails are symbolic of the fractured lives of those emotional and physical impacted by this modern day slavery of domestic servitude, forced labor and sexual exploitation. Raised clear glass elements symbolize hope amid the darkness and draws attention to the importance of advocacy and remaining vigilant in supporting causes that work towards social justice - freeing and creating opportunities for those affected by human trafficking. In our partnership, poet Holly Mason and I found our shared passion for and concern for issues surrounding woman as well as our bond and connection with the natural environment. As part of our collaboration for this exhibition, *Human Trafficking: Reclaiming Freedom*, I have integrated parts Holly's poems into my artwork "Wrapped and Bound", engraving and embedding the words in to the wood and glass.

Website: www.carienquiroga.com