

BARBARA SORENSEN | Artist Statement

The work for this exhibition is part of my “Dwelling” series. These pieces continue my interest in echoing the power of nature.

In this exhibition at Walker Fine Arts Gallery, this group of sculptures, ranging in scale from 4 ft to 12 ft tall, are made of powder coated aluminum rods. Hints of submerged plant life, tumbleweeds on the desert floor, and fauna climbing to reach the sky, are some of the abstract forms created in this new body of work.

The work develops as I create in the studio. I have an overall idea of the piece inspired by a sense of the landscape that I have recently experienced. With a few brief sketches I begin making and bending and cutting the metal into parts. Each piece I place and weld informs the placement of the next piece. I like the process to show, so the welded joints are left raw. Working in this active expressionist method, I feel there is an energy infused into my work.

This body of work is inspired by the landscape and the environment. I instinctively respond to the form, surface and texture of the Earth, echoing them in my work. I look at the landscape, interpret and reinterpret it, and give it back, transformed. Originally inspired by Aboriginal fishing nets, the floating skeleton like vessel forms relate to underwater life, hovering over the ocean floor for divers and snorkelers to find. Most recently I have become more aware of the floral and fauna in the topographical landscape. Whether I am snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia or the BVI's in the Caribbean, I am always questioning the notion of what is interior and what is exterior. They are physical and visual depictions of bundles of spiritual energy.

“Sorensen’s ultimate subject is growth and change. Movement and energy are the essence of life. Movement and energy are the essence of life, characteristics of both the physical world surrounding us and our own interior landscape. Sorensen’s works breathe with this truth in turn, they convey this truth to us.”

Quote from Eleanor Heartney, Topographies, Barbara Sorensen, 2010.