

## Artist's Statement

### Tory Fair

My work addresses the often-troubled relationship between nature within our bodies and our communities and nature that surrounds us. I hope to contribute to the urgent and overwhelming need to redefine our relationship to the environment so we may live more gracefully in balance with our resources. Essential to the task of saving ourselves is acknowledging our imagination as part of our resources and part of our nature. My sculptures are premised on the perception that nature is the imagination; that nature is our selves; and that nature is our surroundings however urban, deserted, bucolic, or wild they may be.

I make casts from my own body in positions of contemplation and reverie. The poses capture everyday moments - walking, sitting, driving, in the shower and sleeping – when I am enveloped in thought and absorbed in my imagination. The surfaces of the figures (see *Sleeping*, 2009) are activated with multiple flowers embedded in the body and formed to contour the gesture. Each flower represents my thoughts as alive as they press and impress a relationship on the world. The sensual color and decadence of the surfaces emphasize a circumference of the body that is greater than its dimensions while extending the aura of the piece toward the viewer.. It is important to me that viewers become players in the piece and see their own bodies in direct relationship with the cast figures and ultimately with the space surrounding both art and audience.



*Sleeping* (2009), resin, mica, and foam

I hope the work conveys both a vulnerable nature and an aggressive one. My need to make the sculptures is rooted in an adolescent desire to explore. As I grow older this need includes the responsibility to be more aware of my place in a collective conscience. I aspire to integrate the body, the sensual imagination, and nature into a discussion of the relative place of our selves in culture and in the environment at large.



*Walking* (2009), resin and foam



*detail of Walking* (2009), resin and foam

Randi Hopkins and Emily Isenberg, Curators of the Institute for Contemporary Art in Boston, introduced these sculptures in this way:



*Driving* (2009), rubber and foam

"William Blake, visionary English poet, painter and printmaker (1757-1827), endorsed the imagination as real, a dynamic, palpable force that acts on our natural and political world. Rendering this unseen force visible and palpable, yet retaining its inherently fantastical spirit, sculptor Tory Fair casts her own figure in everyday positions that are for her the source of greatest inspiration, such as driving or sleeping. The human body, a sturdy and undeniably rugged form, is supported by a bed of nurturing stems and flowers, creating a physical link between the self and the ideas that emanate from it. These blossoming, hybrid forms embody our rootedness, and our desire to branch out; caught somewhere in between, they render visible a state of anticipation and potential."