

Diana Unrein

I've lived my entire childhood steps away from the Mediterranean Sea and have found it to be the most meaningful inspiration for my art. My sculptural work initiates conversations about environmental issues and how humankind is impacting our fragile marine ecosystem. Warming ocean temperatures caused by climate change is the leading cause of coral bleaching. This series of coral headed porcelain sculptures, seeks to encourage others to think about our impact on this fragile ecosystem. Using porcelain paper clay, plaster life molds and cold finished with oil paint, my 3D work becomes a canvas for my painting. I have incorporated bleached coral headdresses, lifeless golden fish, and painted tattoos upon their bodies to add contemporary elements. They are rooted in reference to motifs and ideologies found in traditional Japanese folklore signifying strength, courage and perseverance. My art is an exploration of the human experience and a connection to something bigger than ourselves.