



Crazy Lady Cat
Clay, acrylic | 19 x 17 x 13" | \$2,000



Bronze Artist

A traditional division to “cat people” and “dog people” pervades even the arts, where men and women have often been portrayed with their favorite pets.

Dog lovers are generally perceived as the ones who prefer masterly role and value loyalty most, while cat enthusiasts exhibit more appreciation for the individuality and even peculiarity of feline character. Sometimes, this fascination with a species goes into an extreme, and a complete self-identification happens, often followed with an unflattering moniker. Being a virtuoso in capturing meaningful facial expressions, Zhanna Martin created two mirroring sculptures inspired by the mutual obsession of lonely women and cats, where the word “crazy” is used amusingly justly.

The Russian-American artist devotes herself to recreating single specimens of a wide range of human emotions and expressions – attempting to present the abundance of varying human nature in clay. She pulls out the essence of smugness, carelessness, drunkenness, joy, sadness, melancholy or sullenness to the surface, where she shapes them skillfully into humorous sculptural caricatures. Deliberately overt, Zhanna’s works do not require elaborate clarifications as they provoke and captivate instantly – igniting laughter as the supreme goal of the artist. To render her pieces more accessible to observers, Zhanna employs different universal symbols, including small props, such as cigars, or, if a certain state of psyche requires it, pets. Plainly entitled, her works evoke the tradition of Renaissance allegories, when depicting emotions was a recurring artistic theme.

The pet-inspired series by Zhanna introduced two brilliant portrayals of “Crazy Cat Lady” and its reflection, the “Crazy Lady Cat.” This entertaining duo embodies all the satire ever connected to the notion of a lonely, strange woman living with her cat(s), where the cat is depicted as an unfriendly, hellish creature, overprotective of her mistress, selfish and self-sufficient. Their symbiotic relationship is contained within a stylized realism of their individual portrayals, generating both amusement and compassion with the obviously lost and detached woman. Her feline buddy is all she has, while she is all the cat has ever wanted, as they are either unable or unwilling to cut loose from this unhealthy relationship. The message is therefore clear – do not approach, this is not your place to be – as the archetypal cat and her kooky lady dwell on through eternity.

Zhanna Martin grew up in Siberia, Russia, where she was intoxicated with the infinite possibilities of creative expression since an early age. As a schooled architect, her career has taken a different direction, but when she lost her job due to the global crisis in 2009, it came as a blessing in disguise. Zhanna filled her free time with art ceramic classes where she found the most perfect creative tool and chose it as her primary medium in her artistic path. Conceptually focused on depicting countless human expressions, she continuously creates series of imaginative works, two of which were featured in the acclaimed art book “500 Figures in Clay” in September 2013.