

FLOCK

The paintings and sculptures in this body of work are a continuation of my abstract investigation into the painted possibilities of the circle. Kandinsky, an early abstract painter, wrote about the circle as an inherently balanced and harmonious form and used the disc in many of his works.

About 18 months ago my painting was blocked so I decided to get my hands back into clay to see if the creative juices would flow again. I challenged myself with the disc and after looking at the amazing history of equine sculpture from Altamira, to the Tang Dynasty and Italian MCM I was inspired.

The horses are discs cantilevered on bases, some like flying saucers, some upright like a Greek discus. They have to defy gravity to survive and a great deal of propping is involved to get them through to the end. The final horses all have unique personalities. Some are fey and girlish, some are matronly. It's a pleasure to watch their characters emerge from the assemblage of throwing, molding and free building that is involved.

They are made of BRT clay and are high fired.

Happily the project was successful and the accompanying paintings are still lifes of these sculptures slightly influenced by Picasso's Synthetic Cubism.

In November I will have a solo that is purely abstract about the River Derwent (timtumilli malaya) that wouldn't have been possible without the horses and the clay.

Betty Nolan