

Sir Denis Mahon Sculptural Award 2022/23
End of Project Report

Savannah du Quercy

2020-2023 BA FINE ART



Academic Year 2022/23

City & Guilds of London Art School

Dear Sir Denis Mahon Foundation,

I am writing to express my profound gratitude for the invaluable support you have extended to me throughout the past academic year. Your generosity has not only enabled me to delve into the intricacies of bronze casting but has also allowed me to bring to life a bronze sculpture, consisting of four editions and one Artist's Proof, inspired by my original cardboard creation titled 'Reconstructing Home I'.

The privilege of collaborating with the Art School Foundry, alongside the skilled technicians at London Bronze Casting in Farnham, has offered me a rare opportunity to develop my practical skills but has also deepened my comprehension of the intricate processes involved. This solid foundation will serve as a springboard for my artistic journey ahead.

With sincere thanks for your support,

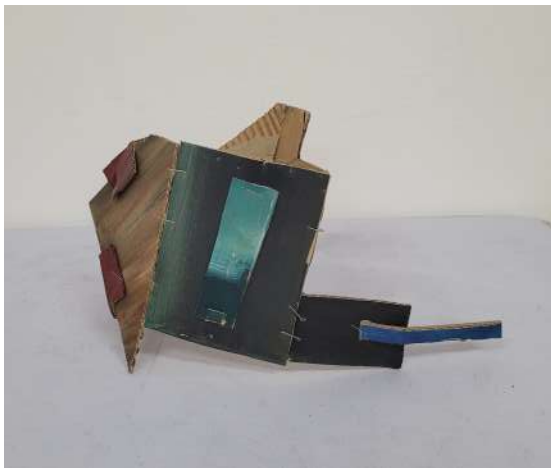
Savannah du Quercy

Reconstructing Home I

Process and inspiration

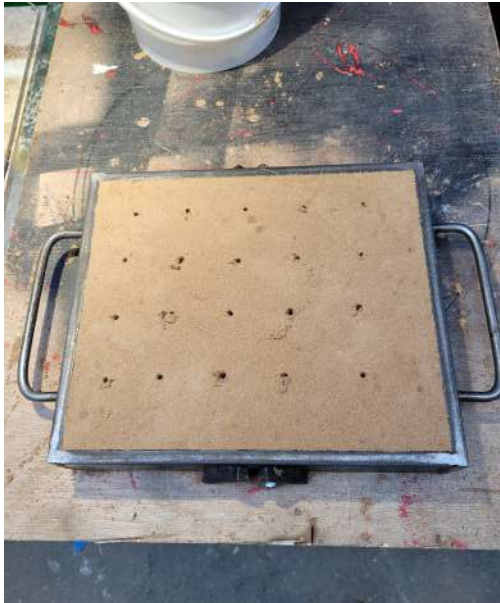
Reconstructing Home I is part of a series of cardboard sculptures made in my second year at the art school. The sculptures explore home as a changing and evolving space, where construction and deconstruction are repeatedly embraced. After a long conversation on Phyllida Barlow's work with an art writer in Cornwall last year I was recommended to watch Buster Keaton's influential short film '1 week' (1920) which served as a catalyst for this cardboard series and subsequently my first bronze edition work. The cardboard series began with the construction of a basic cardboard home which I painted and intentionally deconstructed into different shapes and pieces. The pieces then got re-arranged using staples as a binder creating a new form/ symbolic 'home' as the final work. This creative process was rooted in play, embracing the inherent modularity of cardboard, and allowing for experimentation with the assembling of shapes, geometric explorations, and the considered use of negative space.

Creating a bronze edition of Reconstructing Home I gave me the opportunity to explore the technicalities of bronze casting as a process and it was a great starting point to address my interest in the relationship between value and material while engaging with ideas of home and impermanence vs permanence.



Reconstructing Home I
Cardboard, paint, staples

Bronze casting process & development



Sand casting tests/process with cardboard pieces



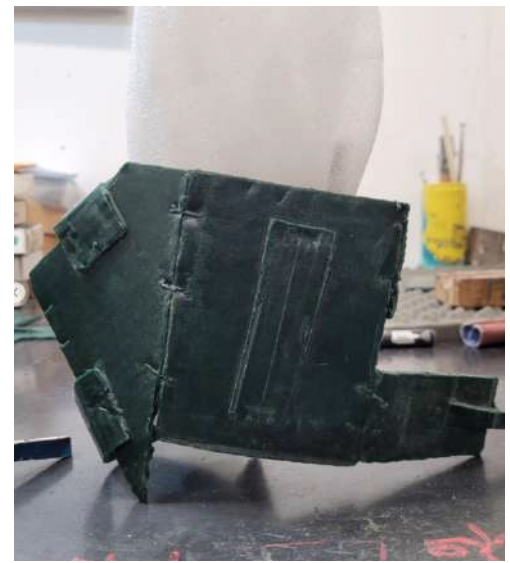
Silicone/ clay bed mould making process using cardboard sculpture



Silicone and fibreglass jacket with parts from cardboard sculpture



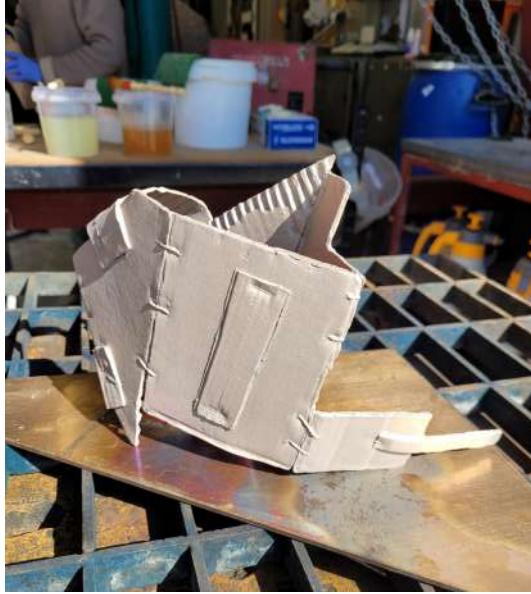
Wax pieces taken from silicone moulds



Reconstruction of the sculpture using the wax parts



Wax mould of sculpture on wax cup with running systems added (image 1,2)- Bronze sculpture after pour (Image 3)



Post sand blasting process and beginning of patination process



Patination process

Reconstructing Home I
Bronze, paint
19x33x13cm
2023



Having recently concluded my degree show in June 2023, I was honoured to be chosen for a one-month residency in Portugal through the PADA residency programme for the month of July. This immersive experience in Barreiro's landscape has ignited the creation of new artworks, capturing the essence of the surroundings and inspiring fresh ideas for upcoming projects.

Since my return to London, I am actively in pursuit of a new studio space, while concurrently laying the groundwork for the set-up of a small art collective and exhibitions scheduled for late this year and throughout 2024. My artistic journey remains firmly anchored in a disciplined studio practice driven by experimental exploration.

Moreover, I am committed to the production of bronze sculptures derived from my cardboard pieces. To facilitate this aspiration, I am diligently seeking funding opportunities that will underpin the realisation of these sculptures.