

Satyress

18 x 11 x 10 inches
Italian Carrara Marble



Ben Buonaiuto

Bio

I was born in an artists' collective in New York, though I spent most of my childhood in Santa Fe, NM. The child of professional sculptors, I grew up in a clay studio and on the road doing arts & crafts festivals. I discovered stone carving as a teenager. For the first few years of my feral young adult life, I made a living by carving stone and selling it at music festivals. Having grown up on the Arts & Crafts show circuit, it was only natural that I met my wife at an art show. Mid-twenties at this point, the wife and I began doing shows together with a line of mixed media and hand-bound books. We had a fun livelihood for approx 7 years. Parenthood, and an urge to settle, led to my career of 15 years as a stone mason, an ancient and venerable craft, and a more grounded way of life. Settling into my 5th decade (and realize that stone masonry is a craft for younger bodies!) I've been feeling the urge to get back to my roots in the arts world. Having grown so close with stone, this has meant swapping my big chisels for tiny ones and learning to carve Italian marble.

Artist Statement

I've worked with stone most of my life, and it's been an honor. Stone is very real. Stone will be here when the sun explodes. For the past couple decades I've worked with stone on a large scale as a stone mason. Wanting to do more subtle work, I've spent the past couple years learning to carve. Why I jumped straight into carving realistic busts is mysterious even to me. It could be as simple as my crazy Italian last name echoing through the centuries. Carefully extracting a soft human form out of jagged stone is deeply satisfying. Probably the biggest inspiration is simply that it's incredibly difficult, and I love a challenge!