

Mia Fonssagrives-Solow / Portrait

Mia Fonssagrives-Solow has been sculpting for over 50 years, from abstract, anamorphic and animal forms in wood to robotic pieces of jewellery using metals. What unites her variety of work is the importance of humour.



M ia Fonsagrives-Solow has been immersed in creativity all her life. The daughter of the French photographer Fernand Fonsagrives and Swedish model Usa Fonsagrives and stepdaughter to Iving Penn, she sewed as a child before making sculpture. Her career spanning over five decades, her visceral, sometimes whimsical work, is imbued with wit and clarifulness.

In parallel to her larger pieces, Fonssagrives-Solow also makes sculptural jewellery, which is sold at the Gagosian's shop in New York and at the Galerie Maeght in Paris. For her most recent jewellery designs, she explores the subject of robots. The eporymous series is intricate and quirty- imagine a silver ring robot with sparkly red ruby eyes, blue sapphire buttons and sneakers on the feet as just some of her vivacious pieces bursting with personality, indeed, she says that she loves humour and looks upon these robots as being characters that are members of her entourage.

Surprisingly, the starting point for these silver and gold-over-bronze pisces was found materials, any-hing from fruit juice bottles to soccer balls, which Fonssagrives-Solow recycled. After achieving the right form, she cast them in aluminum or bronze in the foundry, Animals have also been a source of inspiration, leading her to create minotaur chokers and eleohant outfs.

Equally, her interest in abstraction inspired pieces like the puzzle earings or worry beads on silk cords. Both sets of series remind how Mia Fonssagrives-Solow's early sculptural work comprised abstract, anamorphic sculptures in wood and childlike animal sculptures. Ideas from her sculpture feed into her jewelleny, which in turn gives her ideas for larger pieces. Her latest venture is different again: largescale fibregiass sculptures that sees her tackling fibreglass for the first time.

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