



Marianne DiNapoli-Mylet

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ARTIST STATEMENT - STICKIT

STICKITs are sculptural forms in static motion. Standing about 7 feet tall, the sticks - woven, entwined and adhered to a welded metal armature become languid, living archetypes, celebrating powerful feminine expression. They are a part of nature and apart from nature. The armature is very skeletal allowing the contorted shapes and rhythmic appearance of each stick to spontaneously dictate the expressive gesture and humor that will guide the metastasis of ordinary objects into a powerful, healing, *maga femmine* - a STICKIT.

Quarantine provided an opportunity for me to focus entirely on creating my own story, stepping away from 35+ years of developing community murals. I developed a small powerful entity about 20 inches tall made of sticks and paper. However, I missed the conversational reciprocity of creating on the streets. And created the large STICKITs. Exhibited at an outdoor venue, these pieces presented a new point of communication and engagement with the public.

These powerful feminine forms are daunting, humorous and simultaneously appear protective and engaging - conjuring feminine energy. They honor my second-generation, immigrant childhood, mostly matriarchal, where magic (never referred to as such) was practiced everyday by the women around me - conjuring food, clothing, and necessities from very little. A STICKIT, unafraid to freely express itself embraces the courageous woman, standing alone, surviving, and yet nurturing an environment in which her offspring might flourish. A STICKIT Silva articulates a visual narrative of a supportive enclave, observing the importance of women's relationships, and celebrating powerful rhythmic gestures, strong feminine heritage and the cathartic healing vitality of lyrical movement