

Stella Downer Fine Art

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Artist Statement

What does it mean to be a woman in 2024?

The female body is viewed as the direct incarnation of waxing and waning, life and death cycle in the universe. Although from the moment we are born female we are conditioned to feel ashamed of our appearance and so much fear and shame is part of the everyday dialogue with woman and girls.

In an effort to negate this negative energy, I have created a series of screenprints inspired by the ancient Venus of Hohle Fels figurine, (considered to be the oldest statuette in the world dating 40,000BC – 35,000BC), just 6cm tall, with a tiny head and voluptuous body.

I hope these pictures depicting goddess like figures, create a dialogue about the real females today, sparking conversations about important female issues like violence against women, motherhood, work, ageing, and body shapes.

As women in 2024 in the Western world we have so many more opportunities than the female artists before us but there is still so much more to be achieved before we can feel there is perhaps not even a need to reference an artist's gender.



Venus of Hohle Fels

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