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"Father and Daughter" is a cast marble piece created by New York artist Carole Feuerman. Her exhibit, "From Studio to Foundry: Three Decades of Sculpture by Carole Feuerman," is being shown at Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto. It is the first time she has had a show in Pennsylvania.



"Catalina" is Carole Feuerman's signature piece. It's a female swimmer lifting herself from the water.

Fooling the eye

Artist strives to make her work ultrarealistic

BY LEWIS
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You are never alone when you walk through a gallery exhibiting the works of sculptor Carole Feuerman. New York artist has devoted her life to conceiving the human form in realistic figures involved in every activity and standing amazed her gives the viewer the feeling of being viewed.

More than 60 of her lifelike works are on display in an exhibition titled "From Studio to Foundry: Three Decades of Sculpture by Carole Feuerman," at Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Loretto, marks the first time that the artist Feuerman has unveiled an exhibit in Pennsylvania.

"We are fortunate to be showing the obit of her career," said the museum director. "The exhibit shows the artist's talent and how she has emotionally, artistically and creatively."

Up to "City Slicker," an oil-painted of a young woman wearing a bright bikini with her head tilted back, and are in the subject's joy of standing summer rain.

Feuerman is best known for her skill in creating the illusion of water droplets on skin in a manner so believable, is difficult for the observer not to feel it is wet.

"Catalina" is a bronze sculpture that was popularized in the late 1970s by Feuerman, Duane

Henson and John D'Andrea. Visitors get a flavor of what to expect in the exhibition as they enter the museum and see "Toasting to Your Health." The oil and resin sculpture depicts a young woman seated on a bench with a cocktail glass in hand. This piece differs from most of the other pieces on display in that it is full form.

The other works are fragmented figures that deliver the same impact because Feuerman is able to capture the subject's emotion and transform it into reality.



Feuerman

The artist's signature piece, "Catalina," which simulates a wet female, complete with goggles and a swimming cap, lifting herself from the water.

Even though the sculpture shows only the upper trunk, the viewer is drawn into the swimmer's world and recognizes a feeling of contentment conveyed by the figure's closed eyes and knowing smile.

Feuerman captures the essence of the moment whether it is a swimmer, an athlete or a singer," Tomor said.

She uses direct casting to create the figures, but spends most of her time duplicating the substance of the models in paint. From clothing, teeth, pores, wrinkles and skin color - including suntan lines - Feuerman gives the impression of a living, breathing human being.

Feuerman's world came crashing around her in 1984, when a bike cast fell on her right hand and jeopardized her career. The



Carole Feuerman's "Toasting to Your Health" graces the museum of Art at Loretto.

accident forced her to change from intricate resin sculpturing to more abstract pieces because of the loss of dexterity in her fingers.

"She created a new media, using marble dust, ground glass and a resin binder to create a mixture that could be poured into a mold," Tomor said. "This period of her career, she created unpainted marble sculptures that dealt with contemplative and emotional subjects."

Feuerman had to sacrifice meticulous painted detail and sculpting to more abstract pieces.

But looking at the cast marble figures of "Father and Daughter" or "Remembrance," Feuerman still has a knack for detail.

Her latest technique involves melting, splashing and pouring various metals into precast molds to create sculptures of human torsos.

The natural colors inherent in the metals, gives the works an organic quality of layered strata and subtle coloration.

"All of the bronze figures are named for Greek gods and goddesses," Tomor said. "Her work in bronze is relatively new over the last three or four years of her career, yet it still presents the emotion and passion."

The exhibit also will include museum's education program for more than 2,000 students from 15 school districts will tour and view the display.

At Tomor's request, she created figures and to explain how each process

Using child-size figures, she demonstrated how a figure goes from mold to finish which is a labor-intensive

The tan-colored figures of molds and paint to achieve detail.

"Kids get a direct understanding and appreciation for the technique," Tomor said.

Little League player and show children that the figure transformed into any life using different approaches.