

Shona Nunan, from Correns to Pietrasanta

Shona Nunan's current exhibition in Pietrasanta, entitled *Arrival*, represents a return. She and her husband Michael Francis Cartwright have been artists since they were children. They left Australia for Carrara, Italy, over 30 years ago, coming to Tuscany to learn to work with the white marble and to become part of the artistic community of the region.

Here they raised their sons, Sollai and Jacob, who eventually also became sculptors. After a few years Shona and Michael set up a studio and gallery in Bagni di Lucca, where they were integral in creating the Bagni Arts Festival. From Bagni, they eventually moved to Provence, setting up a studio and gallery in the town of Correns. Their artwork has been shown and commissioned throughout the world.

The Australian artist found many of her early creative influences among ancient Swedish works, Chinese ceramics, and the creations of Italian artist Marino Marini.

Nunan brought with her from Australia a deep appreciation for the earth and our connection to it. Her recurring subjects include ancestors, women, guardian figures, and horses and riders. Many of her sculptures celebrate the Feminine, embracing the harvest, abundance, and the cycles of life. In her sculptures of horses and riders, often made in bronze though originally modeled in plaster, she addresses the archetypal theme of the journey of life. The self (the rider) and inner self (the horse) are portrayed at various phases of their lives.

Pietrasanta's mayor Stefano Giovannetti invited Nunan to choose a creation for the International Park of Contemporary Sculpture, an itinerary throughout the town made up of 80 works of art by world renowned sculptors. In Piazza Carducci, *Arrival* stands two meters high, plus 50 cm for the marble foundation.

Nunan thanked the Fonderia Artistica Versiliese *for the care of my sculptures that it has shown over the years, from the Foundary's fusion in 2015-2016 until today.*

Nunan commented recently, on the podcast *Materially Speaking*, that at first her horses dominated and the people were smaller and thinner, but over time the horses and riders have become more in tune with each other, more harmonious.

nunan-cartwright.com
[instagram.com/nunan.cartwright.art](https://www.instagram.com/nunan.cartwright.art)

Arrival, in Piazza Carducci, Pietrasanta,
International Park of Contemporary Sculpture
On display from 20 February to 2 June 2024

You can listen to Nunan's podcast at
<https://materiallyspeaking.com/episodes/shona-nunan>.

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