

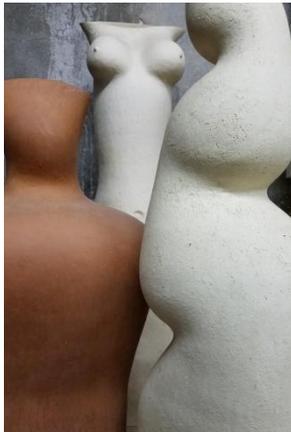
*For Immediate Release*

**Wired Gallery Presents:**

## **Marie Mastronardo: A Retrospective**

**October 28 – November 26, 2017**

**Opening Reception: Saturday, October 28, 5-7pm**



High Falls, NY, October 10, 2017 – Over more than five decades, Marie Mastronardo has produced a vast body of work consisting mostly of ceramic sculptures but also of paintings and various 3-dimensional wall pieces. Selections of her work will be exhibited at Wired Gallery, in a show entitled “Marie Mastronardo: A Retrospective.”

The show will open on Saturday, October 28, 2017, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. sponsored by Stone Ridge Wine and Spirits. Wired Gallery, located at 11 Mohonk Road in High Falls, is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It’s been 17 years since Mastronardo’s work was last seen in a solo exhibit in the Hudson Valley, even though she has lived in Accord since 1971. In 1997, reviewing her SUNY Ulster/Muroff Kotler Gallery show in the *Daily Freeman*, James Shine wrote: “The most outstanding features in Marie Mastronardo’s ceramic sculptures...is purity of lines and utmost simplicity... She is a master of form and handles her pieces with obvious authority... Faintly reminiscent of the British sculptor Henry Moore, she combines solid mass with meaningfully empty hollows... [Her work] is in off-whites, earth tones, and deep shades of gray. The absence of color makes it all the more dramatic, and indeed, ultra refined in its aesthetic value.”

In 1987, also in the *Daily Freeman*, Rich Corozine dedicated his column to Mastronardo. He wrote: “[her] figures seem to...float upward. Fragments of breast, a shoulder, a thigh, gradually free themselves from the clay form... Some of the figures are more stylized, but, seen in the context of all her work, they all flow in the same direction...Mastronardo does sensuous work and it flows from her hands, alive to the eyes.”

“Marie Mastronardo: A Retrospective” will be up through Sunday, November 26, 2017.

### **Artist Statement and Bio**

My first encounter with the art world was as a 5th Grader on a city-wide field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I remember the day as if it were yesterday, seeing for the first time the elegant stairwell leading to the Second Floor, and viewing the magnificent Renaissance paintings. It opened up a new world that has sustained me to this very day. It all began with a BA in Art from Hunter College, a year's travel in Europe, a decade long association with the Art Students' League, studying drawing with Marshall Glasier, painting with Julian Levi, and sculpture with John Hovannes. For the fun of it, I began taking pottery classes at the YWCA, hand building bowls with coils. Little did I know that a passion for creating figurative abstractions of voluminous form with an eggshell delicacy (as described by a critic,) would overtake my creative life. The sculptures take shape, one thin coil of clay at a time, from the ground up. The process is slow, requires infinite patience, but reveals my love for the figure with the purity of ceramic form. My large free flowing sculptures evolve from the clay by freeing the form. I describe my work as "classical primitive." My work has a classical line and in order to build figurative forms with coils, I have to simplify the shapes, therefore "primitive." My inspiration comes from nature. Some of my sculptures have been inspired by the Ancient Greeks (Venuses), and the Egyptians (family groups, sarcophagi, their many vessels and funerary urns.) I have also been influenced by Cycladic, Islamic, and Oriental sculpture, not to mention the masterpieces seen in the Primitive Wing of the Metropolitan Museum. Since moving to Ulster County in upstate NY, I have been sharing my work with the public through solo, group and invitational exhibitions in this region and in NYC.

### **WIRED GALLERY**

**Address:** 11 Mohonk Road, High Falls, NY

**Hours:** Saturdays and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

**Website:** [TheWiredGallery.com](http://TheWiredGallery.com)

**Facebook:** [Facebook.com/wiredgallery](https://www.facebook.com/wiredgallery)

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