

Cecil de Leon
"Poignant Anxieties"
Terra cotta
1994
28 x 37 x 25.5 cm.

"Poignant Anxieties" is about a woman who grows out of the earth and stands out with her own distinct individuality. She also constantly looks up to the stars to connect with that higher self and draw strength from the heavens. Looking up also prepares her for flight that brings both freedom and healing.

This piece is inspired by four generations of women potters that Cecil de Leon lived with in Iguig, Cagayan. For her, the process itself— not just the message that the artwork conveys — is what matters in clay sculpture. The women potters of Atulu are like farmers who nourish the earth with sheer, hard work. They convey the woman's persistence as they knead clay and shape earthenwares. And their lives blend beautifully with the seasons.

Clay is a medium that is good for the soul. For Cecil, "Poignant Anxieties" also represents the transitions in her life.

