

LANA SHUTTLEWORTH

Origins: Influenced by German Expressionism, Lana Shuttleworth first created *Dialogues in the Corridors*, a series of carved portraits made of plasticized polyvinyl (the material of traffic cones). They depict a shaking and unique juxtaposition of what appears to be very real, rich flesh embalmed beneath a vibrant plastic skin—explicating in shocking detail and visceral symbolism how the body, the flesh and the very faces that shape our supposedly unique, human identities have become consumed, compartmentalized and co-opted by an increasingly modern, plastic and throw-away culture.

Evolution: From this, Shuttleworth became less concerned with the surface symbolism of portraiture and the human body, and more interested in creating inviting compositions with strong, living contour of line and shape. Shuttleworth has managed to capture the malleable qualities of the post-industrial materials she utilizes to create visually delicate, two-dimensional landscapes.

"It's always thrilling to see so banal an object transformed into something beautiful, but this is a particularly impressive stretch," stated Holly Myers for the ***LA Times*** regarding Shuttleworth's *Rock Bottom*- a corner landscape exceeding 9.5' in width and constructed with more than a thousand tiny slivers and disk carved from safety cones.

Culmination: This fixation to her medium and its origins culminated in a series of well-received, wall constructions and sculptures that marry, mix and morph the magnificence of life with the commonplace materials that shape the modern world. Surviving in the fast, quick and relentless city of Los Angeles, Shuttleworth uncovers an "organic" nature from the cast offs of our "throwaway culture of commodity".