



Masters of Shape:

The Lives and Art of
American Women Sculptors



Maria Ausherman

Foreword by Kristen Visbal • Introduction by Carol S. Ward
Photography by Steven Taylor

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- With **Masters of Shape: The Lives and Art of American Women Sculptors**, Ausherman continues her exploration of women artists who overcame obstacles of gender and race. These sculptors created spectacular masterpieces that hold inspirational truths about equality and justice
- In this companion to Ausherman's first book on photographers, the succinct biographies of seventeen great women who shaped the world of sculpting move skilfully through history from the early 19th century to the present
- The contributions of these talented sculptors — much of their work beautifully photographed by Steven Taylor — mirror both the internal worlds of these artists and the society surrounding and influencing them

This inspiring and beautifully illustrated book chronicles the lives of seventeen pioneering women sculptors who dared to speak their truths about inequality and injustice and overcame obstacles of gender and race in the last hundred and fifty years. The works that these talented artists cast, carved, and moulded mirror both their internal worlds and the society surrounding them. There is no better way to inspire young women to fulfil their destiny with courage than to give them these brilliantly brief and cogent portraits of great women who shaped the world of sculpting and through that, our culture, and our world. Ausherman puts the spotlight on women artists simply by celebrating them insightfully, and so well.

With many helpful references for additional in-depth readings and beautiful photographs taken by Steven Taylor, this book is a gem for anyone who loves reading how immensely skilful and creative people pursue their passions through the art of sculpture.

Maria Ausherman, a high school teacher and independent scholar, is the author of *The Photographic Legacy of Frances Benjamin Johnston* published as a paperback by the University of Alabama Press in 2022, as well as author of *Behind the Camera: American Women Photographers Who Shaped How We See the World* published by Goff Books, an Imprint of ORO Editions, in 2021. She is the co-author with Patricia Jennings of Georgia O'Keeffe's *Hawaii* published by Koa Press in 2011.

Steven Taylor, photographer

Steven is a retired New York City finance professional. He is an avid photographer specialising in event photography -- music, dance, and theatre.

Carol S. Ward, Introduction

An author and art historian, Carol is the Executive Director of the Lexington Historical Society. Previously she was Director of One River School of Art and the Executive Director of the Morris-Jumel Mansion. Articles she has written have been published in *The Magazine Antiques*, *Historic House Trust*, and *Antiques Weekly*. The title of her book is *Visions of America: The Morris Jumel Mansion*.

Kristen Visbal, Foreword

A member of the National Sculpture Society, Kristen is a bronze sculptor who specialises in lost-wax casting and is manager of a clay modelling studio. Seen in New York, Melbourne, and Oslo, her most famous work, *Fearless Girl*, is an iconic symbol inspiring the empowerment of women worldwide and gender diversity in leadership.