

The Story of Abelard and Heloise told through Porcelain

MONROE, CT, June 15, 2016— The Save Our Stepney Task Force (SOS), in cooperation with the town of Monroe, is featuring Florence Suerig's porcelain sculptures in the gazebo on the Stepney Green, Monroe, CT, June 15- August 27, 2016.

This installation is the second in a series of "Art on the Green", located on Main Street, Monroe, CT at the intersection of routes 25 and 59. The gazebo serves as an outdoor gallery in which to display this public art.

The figurative sculptures are that of Abelard and Heloise, one of the most celebrated couples of all time, known for their forbidden love affair... and for the tragedy that separated them.

In a letter to Abelard, Heloise wrote: "You know, beloved, as the whole world knows, how much I have lost in you, how at one wretched stroke of fortune that supreme act of flagrant treachery robbed me of my very self in robbing me of you; and how my sorrow for my loss is nothing compared with what I feel for the manner in which I lost you."

Peter Abelard (1079-1142) was a French philosopher, considered one of the greatest thinkers of the 12th century. Among his works is "Sic et Non," a list of 158 philosophical and theological questions.

Heloise (1101-1164) was the niece and pride of Canon Fulbert. She was well-educated by her uncle in Paris. Abelard later writes in his "Historica Calamitatum": "Her uncle's love for her was equaled only by his desire that she should have the best education which he could possibly procure for her. Of no mean beauty, she stood out above all by reason of her abundant knowledge of letters."

Florence said, "a dancer's body moving through space often inspires my work. My thoughts of love, joy, and sorrow are expressed through my hands". Florence's forms of sculpture are sometimes simple, at other times complex, but always abstract. After a successful 35-year career as a fiber artist, Florence Suerig began working in clay in 2000. Suerig has exhibited at venues including the American Craft Museum (now the American Museum of

Art &Design) in New York City; Craft USA '08 Triennial at Silvermine Guild Galleries, CT; and in All Fired Up! At Westchester Community College, NY.

The public is invited to a reception to meet Florence Suerig and to learn more about her work and the “Art on the Green” project on Sunday, July 10 from 3:00-5:00pm at the Stepney Green. Refreshments will be served.

The purpose of the “Art on the Green” project is to showcase and introduce public art to the community. Last year, the SOS Task Force put out a call for public art to artists in Connecticut and Westchester county, NY. After receiving many entries, a task force committee selected three artists to display their public art through November 2016.

The Save Our Stepney Task Force, Inc., is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, more specifically to preserve and enhance the character of the village of Stepney, Connecticut, incorporated within the Town of Monroe. The organization’s scope of concern includes identifying, documenting, improving and/or preserving historic, cultural and natural properties and features of Stepney. Activities include public events, education, beautification and cultural enrichment. For more information about the Save Our Stepney Task Force, call Joel Leneker at 203.268.0247, follow use on Facebook at Save Our Stepney Task Force or visit www.stepneyct.org.

CAPTION: *Florence Suerig with her porcelain sculpture entitled “Abelard and Heloise”.* **Porcelain** is a *ceramic* material made by heating materials, generally including *kaolin*, in a *kiln* to temperatures between 1,200 and 1,400 °C (2,200 and 2,600 °F). The toughness, strength and translucence of porcelain, relative to other types of *pottery*, arises mainly from *vittrification* and the formation of the mineral *mullite* within the body at these high temperatures.

The sculpture will be displayed on the Stepney Green, Monroe , CT though August 27, 2016. Free to the public.