



Smithsonian  
*National Portrait Gallery*

**PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST  
ALEXANDRA MARTIN**

One of the first artists to be featured in the “Portrait of an Artist” phase of the National Portrait Gallery’s Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006, Alexandra Martin says she “stumbled” into sculpture seven years ago. “I was a successful real estate agent in the San Francisco Bay Area for many years. After my children were grown, I re-married and moved to New York City, where I started Saturday art classes as a lark. That was it—I fell in love with sculpture, and have been doing it ever since.”

Since that fateful weekend, Martin has focused on making her sculpture serve as an underlying emotional narrative that viewers can connect to. She has been particularly influenced by Barney Hodes and Anthony Antonios, with whom she has studied over the past several years at the National Academy School of Fine Arts.

Martin says she is fascinated by the human body and the way it functions, and her sculpture honors the beauty of the human form. Now based in New York City, Martin says she has found more time to work on her art. Her entry in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition is “Fist: A Self-Portrait;” a bonded aluminum sculpture standing three feet high. As Martin notes in her first posting on the Portrait of an Artist website: “Does this constitute who I am? Is this my essence—a clenched hand? Of course, I also use my hand to make my art, to pet my dog, to caress my grandchildren, to cook my favorite meals, to hold my books. So maybe my hand does represent me.”

Martin works with water-based clay cast in various materials. Her sculptural work has been featured in many collections and exhibitions and she has won numerous awards and honors for her work. When she’s not working, Martin loves spending time with her daughters and granddaughters, and enjoys the theater and many other delights of New York City.

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