

## Independent Arts Foundation Grant Report– Caitlin Bowe

### Activity Report:

I was granted the amount of \$1000 to undertake the Bronze Age Casting Course and Open Access Residency at the Scottish Sculpture Workshop. While this was originally supposed to take place in 2020, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was only able to travel to the UK in 2022. Both of these courses have given me a wealth of new knowledge and skills to utilise within my arts practice.

During the Bronze Age Casting Course I learnt how the Picts would have created Bronze objects by making my own with the techniques and materials that they would have used. The technician Eden developed this course based on archaeological digs around the area where Bronze Age artefacts related to casting have been found. I learnt how to use the lost wax technique and other techniques surrounding the furnace and bronze pouring.

During my Open Access Residency I was able to continue with the Bronze Age casting, creating more sculptures with this technique. Because I had more time I was able to develop a ceramic coat on my wax works so that the Bronze would pick up more details. I also spent time in the forge, learning Blacksmithing and creating an herb chopper, Stang head, and Moon rake. The Bronze pieces and forged objects will be exhibited in my solo exhibition in July 2023 at The Floating Goose.

My time at the Scottish Sculpture Workshop was an amazing experience, I have learnt more than I thought possible and created works for an upcoming exhibition. This has inspired me to continue metal casting and Blacksmithing and for it to shape the future of my practice.

### Images:



Bronze Age Casting Course: The furnace and crucible with molten bronze



Bronze Age Casting Course: Furnace with clay moulds, heating them to pour out the wax. Finished Bronze works.



Open Access: Bronze boar and crow based on bronze objects seen in the British Museum



All objects made during Open Access