



Cissy van der Wel  
sculptor

Connect and Divide:

# On Taking Root





You can connect with people, language, habits, a country, a mountain, a house, a family, the sea. With many kinds of things, actually. Also with the soil you're standing on, literally and metaphorically. Your ground, your foundation, your roots.

**Where, actually, do your roots lie? Do you ask yourself sometimes?**

Does it have to do with the connection to your birthplace, to the soil that brought you forth? Where you made your first steps? The grounds of your family? Do your roots have to do with being connected to the people you met in that particular place and are important for the person you are now? Here, the question arises whether your roots coincide with your identity.

Someone starts taking root, connecting, when s/he lives, works, loves somewhere, speaks the language, understands the culture, feels at home. But also deeper feelings, passion and rapture, as well as the concepts of fatherland and motherland are associated with the notion of 'roots'.

**When I, with this theme in mind, asked various people around me where there roots were, I received, amongst others, the following answers:**

"I pulled my roots out of the ground where I was born and later, when I left my childhood behind me and became an adult person, put them back into the ground. Here I live and work now, here have I got children and lead my social life."

**Someone else answered:**

"I don't have the impression that I have got roots. I could live anywhere, I feel at home everywhere."

"I have lived here all my life. I think my roots lie here. I don't reflect on it very much, it is something self-evident."

**The first answer most appealed to me. A bunch of roots, halfway into the ground, whereby you wonder whether they are standing in the ground (connecting), or are just being pulled out of it (dividing). I decided that this will be my design for the Symposium of Flussparadies Altendorf/Bamberg/Germany, with "Verbinden und Trennen" as its theme.**



**work process**



foto © Bob Budd

I made a little model in clay before making the final sketch for the big work with the measures 2.40 x 1.50 x 1.40m in Muschelkalk, a local limestone, titled Take Root.

In the photomontage below you can see Take Root on the right spot at the Main-Donau-Canal near Altendorf/Bamberg. On the background the concrete-company Röckelein. The vertical blue pipes of the factory have a diagonal connection with the carrots over the canal.



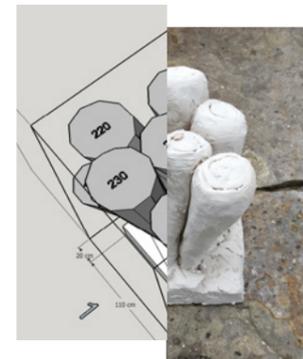
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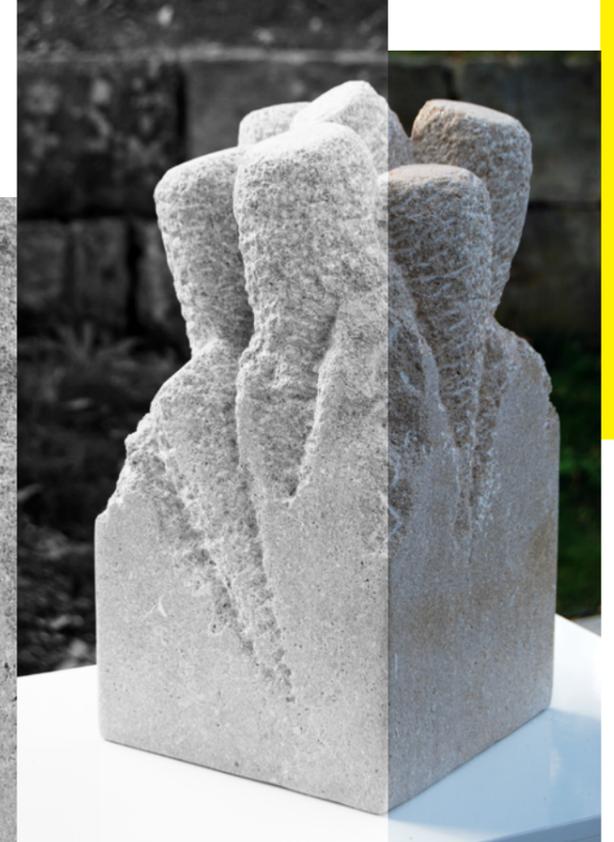
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To get topic and form clear I use drawings and small models. The technical drawings are made for the quarry to determine the size of the stone and the frontwork for the stonemasonry.



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