

Means of Production for Bell Climb, chora, Pigeonhouse Mountain.

To create this sculpture, the wheel thrown clay form was left open at the top to enable volumes to be pushed and stretched out from the interior void. In the *Timaeus*, Plato alludes to *Chora*, an elusive energy of formlessness that swirls into becoming. The emotional power of *Chora* inspires my form making processes as I mediate between volume, void and surface.

From Lagoon Head on the coast near Pigeon House Mountain, the constellation of the Pleiades, can be clearly seen in the night sky. The Seven Sisters story is significant in Aboriginal culture and many other world cultures. I inscribed the seven star motif and name of the constellation in Aboriginal language into a little plaster cylinder seal, one of the most ancient methods of imparting text to a clay surface. This cylinder was rolled to make impressions along the tracks that wind around the sculpture.

Tracks ascend the mountain in back and forth fret patterns that allude to twists, turns and encounters that happen on pilgrimage journeys. Particular inspiration comes from the maze inlaid into the marble floor of *Chartres Cathedral* in France. The scale of plant motifs is enlarged to evoke the quality of a perceptual encounter. When one notices a particular plant, if one bends down to observe it in more detail it can seem to almost fill one's field of vision.

Curving patterns of movement in the scrolls of cloud forms are repeated around the sculpture, sprig moulded from a traditional cloud motif carved into a Japanese wooden cake mould, acquired from a temple market in Tokyo. To suggest the mountain is enshrouded in mist, I painted the form with matt vitrified engobes to skim and veil the surface textures and used shiny glazes and some coloured ceramic stains to evoke the moisture and vitality of living plants and damp rocks.

Often veiled in mist, high points like the stone cap of Pigeon House Mountain, the Stupa at Sanchi, or indeed Hill End, where the sculpture was made, can induce a sense of exhilaration from the uplift of cool air and sounds of life that float up on a breeze from the plain below. ©Toni Warburton August 2020