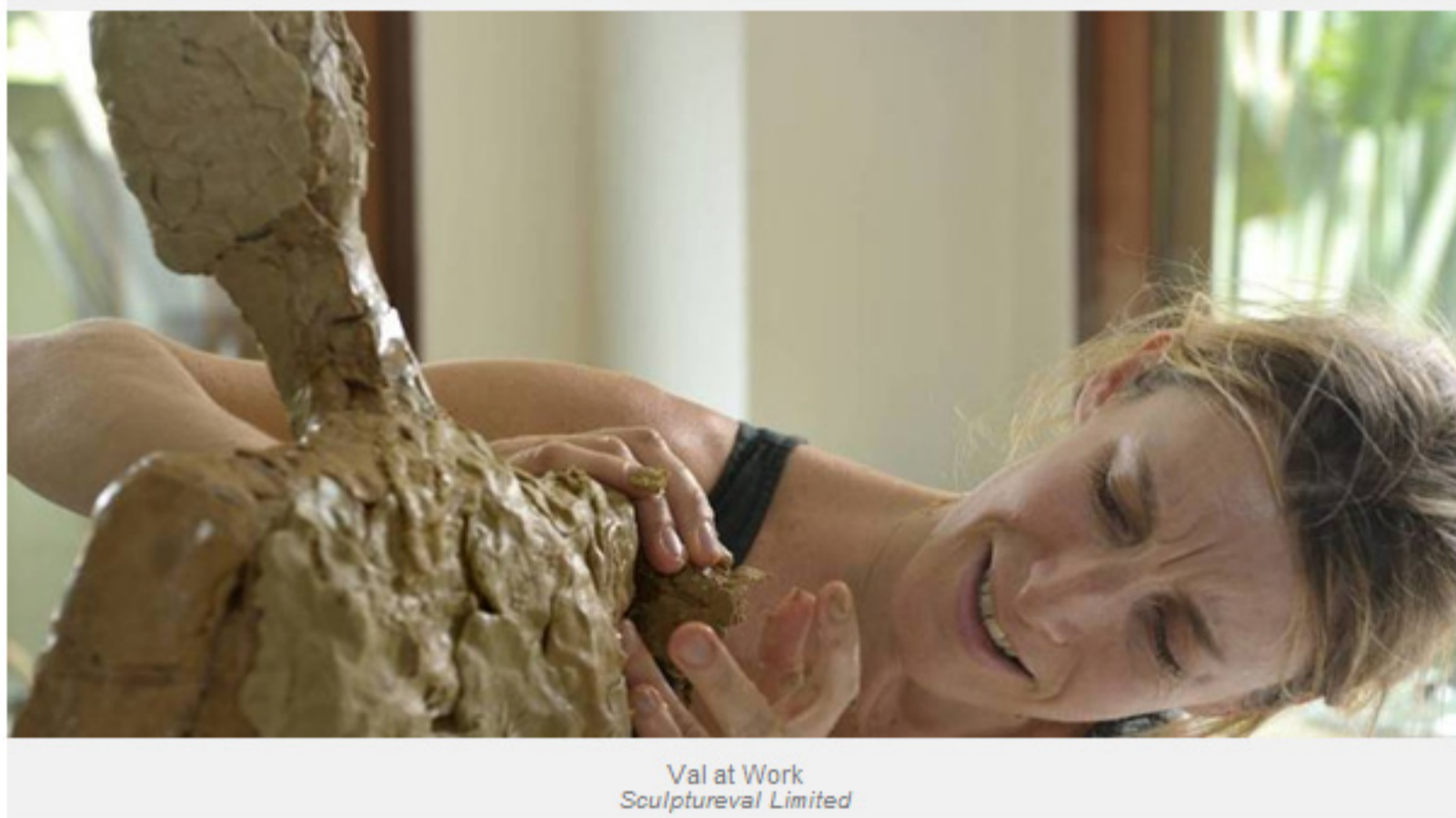




## French Sculptor Val Exhibiting at the Red Sea Gallery

By [Julie Maggiacomo Carrera](#)  
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Val at Work  
Sculptureval Limited

**Featuring her life-sized figures for the first time anywhere, the talented artist opened her exhibit in Singapore on September 18th, 2010.**

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The solo exhibition of works by Valerie Goutard Andrianoff, also known as Val, will remain at the [Red Sea Gallery](#) until October 16, 2010. Over thirty sculptures are displayed ranging in size from 10 centimeters to two meters tall.

### Val's Talent & Passion Discovered on Her Own

While growing-up in both South America and Africa, Val never became aware of her talent, with only minimal exposure to art. "I never imagined I could do something with my hands," Val stated in a personal interview on September 17, 2010. It wasn't until years later when she became financially independent that the important discovery took place.

The one-time marketing professional became alert to her passion, over a decade ago, at a fateful meeting with a friend working with clay. "The experience was such a revelation that the overwhelming passion she felt then has yet to subside," according to [Val's](#) biography. Soon after the encounter, she began studying in Paris with an artist named Yanne Kintgen. Within two years she succeeded at her new-found career, leading Val to make the decision to cut-off all professional and cultural ties that bound her.

### Val Found Inspiration & Creativity in Asia

Val loves the way of life in Asia, declaring that she has found her wings and true creative freedom. When asked what drove her to Bangkok, Thailand in the first place, where she currently resides, Val stated that she has never forgotten her first visit to Asia almost 14 years ago. One trip to Vietnam gave her the idea that "life wasn't what I wanted it to be," she stated in the personal interview. She quickly took notice that people were happy in Vietnam just living their lives and working hard without the need for extra things.

Bangkok is now her home and she enjoys it there immensely. "It's very nice to live in a country where there is value and respect," she stated. One of her favorite things about Bangkok is the energy that can be felt everywhere in the city, she continued. She began working with the foundry right away, now almost six years ago. Furthermore, she has formed very good working relationships in Bangkok and met her second husband there as well.

### Creating Life-Sized Sculptures Entails Constant Changes

While comparing her life-sized structures to her smaller works, Val stated it's a completely different way of working. "Rules are not the same. . . . Much more research and balance between man and architecture," stated Val. She admits that while working on enlargements, she repeatedly has to take a step back, take a look with a new eye and make changes.

The sculptures are much heavier than they appear and can take up to five months to cast at the foundry. The larger architecture pieces were displayed at the [Shanghai Art Fair](#) earlier this month in China, including one placed at the entrance to the fair. While exhibiting in Shanghai, Val had the honor of placing her large "Monumental Urban Life" sculpture (10 meters in height) in the middle of Shanghai at the Jing'an International Sculpture Park. Despite the size and weight of the sculptures, "my pieces are very light, like a lightness of being, looking for balance," stated Val.

### Human Connection to Art

With one look at Val's sculptures people recognize themselves in her work. Her "Father with Children II" piece is a joyful creation of a parent's time spent playing with their children. This particular sculpture was inspired by Val's husband enjoying time with his sons. She admits that she doesn't always know where her inspiration comes from, "but when I finished the work it comes to me," stated Val.

Another example, is the "Inle Balance" creation, which was inspired by a fisherman and his boat in Burma and his obvious harmony with nature. Watching closely, Val noticed the flow of his movements was a dance of sorts that achieved balance. If you take away the man from the boat, balance is lost.

Some of her pieces are highly romantic, although the symbolism doesn't necessarily reflect a happy ending. For instance, one should look closely at the "Finding Soulmate II" piece, a tall structure with two people standing on their own pedestals trying to grab a hold of one another, yet a large gap separates them. "You can see that they are joined together, but you can see that they will never succeed because of the huge gap," state Val. "We have our own personalities but have strengths that work together. . . . still we feel the gap will never be filled," she continued.

Val's sculptures involve both a figure and a stage. All the distractions of the world are removed and the focus shifts to the human forms and their private moment, along with the play of shadows. The way the figures are portrayed leaves viewers with an understanding of how fragile they really are in the world. Afterall, "the balance of life can be thrown off in a moment," stated Val.

Val's exhibit will remain at the Red Sea Gallery on Dempsey Road until October 16, 2010. The gallery is open daily from 9:30am to 9:00pm. For an additional article on recent art exhibits in Singapore, please see "[Chan Hampe Galleries Opens with Exhibit of Kumari Nahappan's Art.](#)"

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**Julie Maggiacomo Carrera**  
Contributing Writer

Julie's writing career began back in college in the 1990s. However, she considers herself a new writer since she has put this...



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