

## Woman of Words

### Wellington, New Zealand

One of New Zealand's most celebrated writers, Katherine Mansfield, has been immortalised in a beautiful sculpture by sculptor Virginia King. Here Virginia talks about the practical creation of the stainless steel sculpture 3.4 m in height, Woman of Words – that graces Midland Park on Wellington's Lambton Quay.

"To create the sculpture, I made several small models or maquettes of the figurative form, the first in paper, the second in plaster of Paris and a third in wood at 1/5 full size. The final maquette was shaped in 2mm thick, stainless steel."

The body of the sculpture is embellished with laser cut phrases and quotations sourced by King from the wealth of short stories, diaries and journals the author left behind when she died at the age of 38.

The intricate layering of words was a complex part of the design process. The final panels of text were laser cut from panels of 2.5mm thick stainless steel. With panels of laser cut language it was possible to form these slightly more easily using two presses.

"Having decided to create the hands and face of the sculpture from cast metal and to ensure the entire artwork was created using 316 grade stainless steel, I saved all the 'drop outs' from my previous laser cut sculptures ('I only ever use grade 316')," the sculptor says. "So the collected 'drop outs' were delivered to an Auckland foundry, Progressive Castings, to be recycled for this sculpture."

Environment:	urban
Use:	main body
Material:	316 with a thickness of 2.5 mm
Sculptor:	Virginia King
Photographs:	New Zealand Stainless Steel Development Association
More information:	<a href="http://nzssda.org.nz">nzssda.org.nz</a>



Picture courtesy of NZSSDA

