

No Masters

Bronze horse sculpture . 31 x 27 x 11 cm. (Base 27 x 15 cm)

by Kezia Hoffman, 2025.

This small bronze horse emerged unexpectedly, out of play rather than plan. I had resisted making a horse for years—there is so much horse imagery bound up with status, ownership, and power. I’m interested in a different lineage: not the horse as ornament or conquest, but the horse as a force that precedes hierarchy.

Horses changed the human sense of time and distance. They collapsed space, enabled movement, and made fixed borders unstable. Long before they carried empire, they carried nomadic life—ways of living that were mobile, adaptive, and unowned. This sculpture leans into that earlier energy.

The form was built quickly from wire and plasticine, deliberately kept rough and unresolved. I wanted the surface to hold movement, not polish—to feel handled rather than perfected. As the form developed, the words *No Masters* emerged and were inscribed directly into the surface, not as a message imposed on the work, but as something already held within it.

Cast in bronze—a material historically associated with permanence, authority, and control—the work preserves something more volatile: a quiet refusal. The horse stands without rider, tack, or instruction. It is not charging or decorative. It is simply present, bearing its own weight.

For me, the work holds a sense of threshold: between wildness and form, between freedom and containment. It asks what happens when strength does not perform, when movement does not seek permission, and when power is held inward rather than displayed.

