

RECOGNITION

The Spirit Embodied in Lead

*Lead, spirit embodied,
Trapped within,
Walls of flesh, walls of thought.*

*Quiet voices, whispering in dream,
Time has come,
Remember:*

*Eyes closed, centre within,
Release from hold,
Drift.*

*First step, open door;
journey begins,
Lessons.*

*Deep within, spirit waits,
Discover truth,
Gold.*

Poem written by Julianne Squires



*I*n medieval times it was believed that lead, the forerunner of all metals, could be transformed into gold by refining.

This was one of the fascinating aspects of the history of lead uncovered by sculptor, Julianne Squires. Julianne spent over a year planning, constructing, moulding and casting her 'labour of love'; a lead and bronze figure called Recognition.

"The crouched figure is looking at a mask which is a replica of her face," Julianne said.

"The lead figure looking into the gold coloured mask symbolises the recognition of the human spirit embodied in the matter and draws on the lead to gold mythology."

"The mask is actually made of manganese bronze, which appears gold in colour."

"In alchemy, lead is believed to be transformed into gold through a process of refinements."

Julianne selected lead metal for her project because she hadn't had the opportunity to work with lead before and because "lead has a timeless appeal."

The half tonne of lead used to produce the sculpture was donated by Pasminco Metals - Sulphide.

The preparation process for a sculpture such as this is long and involved. Julianne explained the

