

## "Anorexia"

This puppet evolved in two phases. The first was to create a female body that was lovely – round curves, full breasts, enticing.

Youthful beauty is something to behold, but only on the surface. It tells no story.

Something was missing; something that penetrated the surface, more poignant, but not pathetic. Not the crying children seen so often at markets.

Young people suffering anorexia are screaming out to the world for help, understanding and compassion.

A sentence I heard very often from my inspiring teacher in Prague, Mirek Trejtnar, was "Less is more", which encouraged one not to be afraid of going deeper in the wood to find the essence of the figure being created.



Somehow, as I chipped away from an attractive female body, I got closer to my goal; and realized that this motto could also apply to victims of anorexia.

There she was, bare, unpainted, unfinished...

The painting process was tedious and demanding. Seemingly contradictive: 7 layers of color to achieve the translucence I wanted. The final process is time – time for the separate layers to fuse as one.

The next morning, I got a shock: "Anorexia" was born, lying alone on my workbench. She seemed so alone and vulnerable that something was desperately needed to ease her pain. A soft and friendly mouse was added – a companion.

