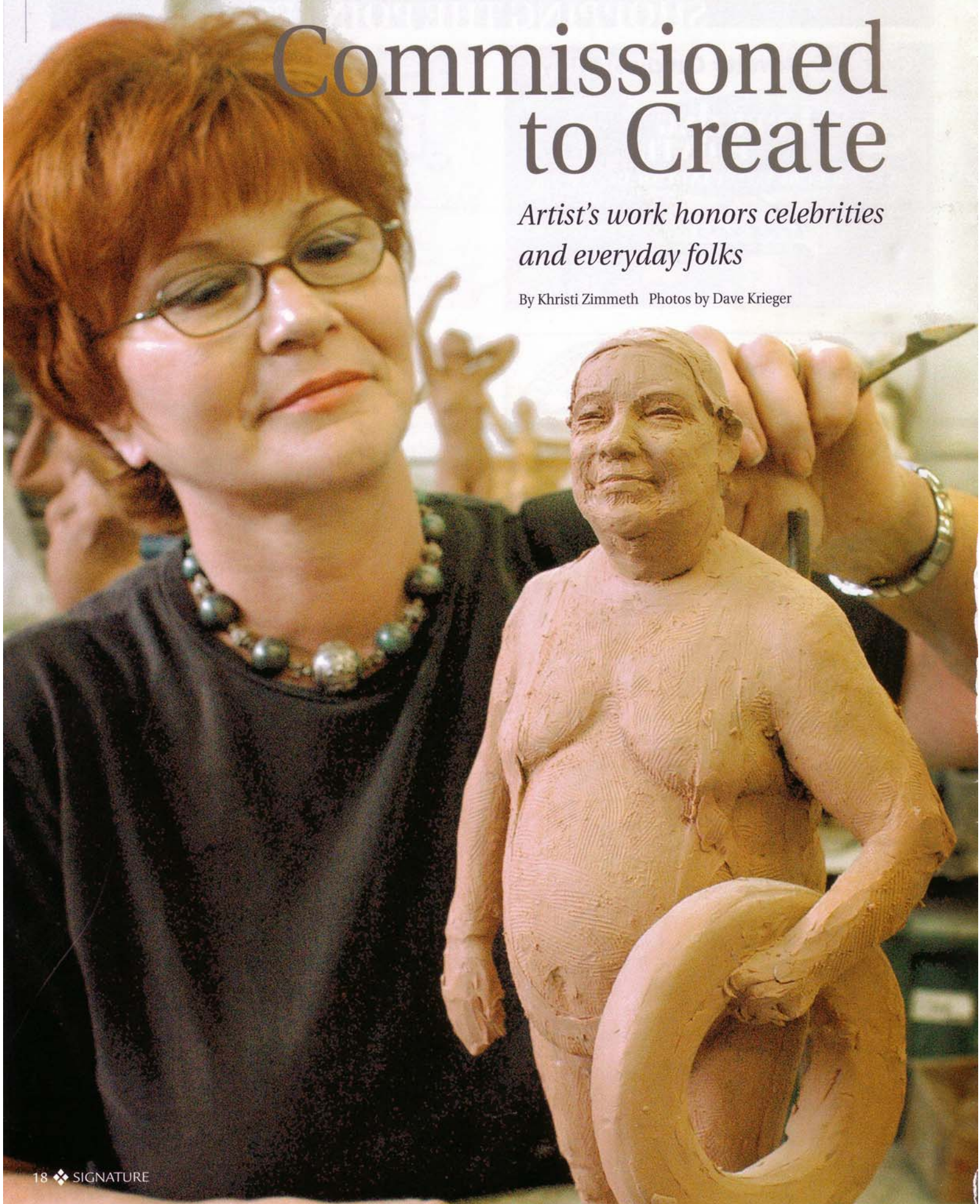


Commissioned to Create

*Artist's work honors celebrities
and everyday folks*

By Khristi Zimmeth Photos by Dave Krieger





Janice Trimpe (pictured at left) says she works on up to seven projects at a time. Throughout her career, she has created about 300 pieces. Above and below: A sampling of the myriad sculptures that fill Trimpe's Grosse Pointe Park Studio

At the center of Janice Trimpe's workplace stands an angel.

The 6-foot plaster model – intended for Assumption Grotto Catholic Church in Detroit – is poised as if ready for flight. Trimpe traveled to Italy to study the work of 17th century sculptor Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini in hopes of “getting the wings just right,” she says.

Trimpe lives and works in Grosse Pointe Park. Busts of people and animals fill nearly every shelf and countertop in her 2,000-square-foot studio on Charlevoix, where she teaches sculpting classes and works under 17-foot ceilings that allow her to create monumental pieces.

After dabbling in oil painting and pottery, Trimpe studied sculpture in the 1970s at what is now the College for Creative Studies. Word of her talents spread, and over the past 30 years, she's been commissioned to create busts and full-size statues of such diverse personalities as Grosse Pointe businessman and Ambassador Bridge owner Manuel Moroun, late Dearborn Mayor Orville Hubbard, Parke Davis CEO Joseph Williams, and dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Trimpe says each sculpture takes about a year to complete.

She was commissioned by the City of Detroit in 1997 to recreate the boy in the sculpture *Partners* on Belle Isle, depicting a newsboy and his dog. The boy had been stolen in 1966 and 1974. Trimpe's sculpture was dedicated 100 years after the original statue's installation.

At the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Clinton Township, Trimpe's trio of abstract glass panels etched with figures representing music, theater and dance memorializes Dominic Severini, a dedicated arts patron and member of the center's board of directors.

But Trimpe's work is not limited to honoring celebrities or community leaders. She was recently commissioned to create reliefs of a client's 12 grandchildren, and she has worked with churches and groups facing budget challenges.

“I like people to bring me problems – I make up things to solve them,” Trimpe says. “I try to find a way of creating what they want.”

After the 1990s, Trimpe turned to the life-size bronze statues and

public art that dominate her work today. In downtown Mount Clemens, *Apple of My Eye* depicts an old man playing checkers with a young girl. Trimpe shrugs off critics who say her work is too sentimental.

“There's enough bad stuff out there,” she says. “There's a lot of good out there, too. That's what we need to emphasize and get back to. That's what I try to do with my work.”

Trimpe is the mother of three grown children, George, Chris and Aimee, and the grandmother of Jessie, Ashley and Lexi. Her husband, Roger Wayne, works for Compuware Corp. ❖

