

E-Mail: <u>sylvia@sylviariquezes.com</u> Website: <u>www.sylviariquezes.com</u>

## The Lotus Flower

This piece represents a Lotus Flower, which seeds and blooms at the same time as a metaphor for the simultaneous nature of cause and effect. The red ball is an emblem of humanity.

Through the interpretation of nature, such as the Lotus flower, I pretend to create an urban landscape where a friction is created between what's "fake", what's simulated and the idea of what's natural, as a metaphor of the tense situations between the urban scenario and nature within contemporary constructs; nevertheless, I seek to create awareness of the importance of plants and flowers which still prevail in our cities, and which, to my opinion deserve the care and protection necessary in an industrial and technological world. I consider them the visual poetry that exists amongst our changing world of cement and asphalt.

By creating another type of "flower" or "plant", I propitiate a paradox that leads us to think about the real and about the simulated or fictitious in nature.

I attempt to attract the attention of the spectator and create a different level of consciousness of the environment. Furthermore, I mean to make it possible for the public to enjoy the visual contrasts between what is artistic and what is natural, between the work that has been "created" and the other, the one resulting from the combustion of natural elements.

I use the industrial materials, but change them, giving them properties that exceed their intrinsic qualities; I emphasize their rude industrial power, trying to underline the predominance of what is industrial in a society that values the consumption, the artificial, the apparent, the false, the fake, and the imitations.

In a deeper sense, this work alludes to the perpetual transformation and re-transformation of matter, which constantly re-constitutes itself. It makes reference to the millenary writings of the Shakyamuni Buddha as well as to the underlying knowledge and wisdom contained in these "sutras" or extracts of supreme knowledge. This flower and its industrial qualities reflect the dynamic of the Lotus Sutra, the simultaneous existence of cause and effect.