

Cheryl Tall • Art Studio
Sculpture • Fine Art • Mixed Media • Ceramic
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La Reina

2019, architectural clay, slip, oxides, kiln fired

La Reina is Spanish for a queen, a loved one or a chess piece. A variation of the name is Lorena, which was my mother's name.

My sculpture, La Reina, shows a standing goddess figure, dressed in pale colors. Her two heads are topped with a crown. She looks down at her cupped hands. She is a protector goddess, taking care of nature's creatures.

La Reina was created by the artist in a two week sculpture retreat at Estudio Paloma in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and inspired by the teachings of the great figurative sculptor, Adrian Arleo.

As adults looking back to childhood, we cannot typically recall anything before age 3-4 years. This phenomenon is known as infantile amnesia. Although some individuals report very early memories of being walked in their pram as a baby, or falling asleep in a cot, these memories are likely to be fictional.

One of the most important developments for the onset of memory is language. Research shows that language is needed not just for sharing our experiences, but for encoding them.

For example, young children invited to use a fictional "magic shrinking machine" could only recall this one year later if they had the appropriate vocabulary at the time of the event.

In addition to language, children must also develop a coherent sense of self, or of "who I am." This emerging development allows them to pin events to a personal story that is continuous across time. The sense that "this happened" develops into a deeper understanding that "this happened to me."

These individual differences have important implications, with children eventually coming to adopt the personalised style of their parents: first during shared reminiscing conversations, and later in their own independent memories.

Consistent with the "individualist" values of Western culture, American college students' earliest childhood memories are typically long, specific, and self-focused.

Consistent with the "collectivist" values of Chinese culture, Chinese students' earliest childhood memories are typically brief, and more likely to reference social responsibilities.

American mothers are also more likely than Chinese mothers to focus on their child's own personal emotional experiences when remembering together, and it is likely that these early parent-child conversations serve as a mechanism for imparting cultural norms.

In New Zealand, where Māori culture includes a rich oral tradition in which stories are shared across generations, Māori mothers have been found to reminisce differently to Pākehā (European New Zealand) mothers about important life events. When talking with their children about their own birth stories, for example, Māori mothers include more elaborations, more references to emotion, and more references to relational time.

Business Insider, Penny Van Bergen, 2018