



Art and Writing
by Women with
Breast Cancer

Art.Rage.US.

Introduction by Jill Eikenberry

Epilogue by Terry Tempest Williams

NIKE OF MASTECTOMY

Kay Minto

1992

29½" x 29" x 14"

LAVA ROCK AND ALUMINUM

During my brief stay in the hospital, I kept thinking about the Nike of Samothrace, the Greek statue of winged victory. When I got home, I felt compelled to do my own version. I worked for months on the torso, welding and fitting the aluminum. All the while, my left brain's analytical voice kept whispering, "This is a pretty static composition—no dynamic tension. Are you sure this is right?" And yet through experience, I had learned to trust the creative process. I spent another ten days welding a wing. The moment I attached it to the body, the Nike came alive.

Maybe there's a lesson for life here. If I let go of judging what happens to me, then perhaps I can glimpse a larger pattern in life. My challenge now is to live day by day with the same trust I have when my art is unfolding. Ray Bradbury said, "You have to jump off cliffs all the time and build your wings on the way down." For me, completing the Nike was like graduating to a new stage of life, being transformed from an earth-bound being to a woman who can fly.

