

## 140B Serena

I built this figure thinking of Serena Williams as a target of classic double standards when she lost the Women's Singles tournament at the 2018 U.S. Open Finals. She was grossly penalized and sanctioned one game for a show of anger and disrespect toward the umpire – the same sort of tantrum many men players exhibit on the court, often without consequences.

But the more I researched the situation and other on-court penalties, the muddier my theory became. While harsh, the penalty wasn't unprecedented. And Serena's young opponent (and lifelong fan), Naomi Osaka, actually outplayed Williams that day. Publicly supporting Osaka after the game, Serena later wrote, "not only was a game taken from me but a defining, triumphant moment was taken from another player... My heart broke."

Sexism and double standards thrive in sports. My Serena figure represents all female athletes seeking equality. A role model for millions of young women, Williams is a powerful and successful woman and mother, and an outstanding athlete. She stands her ground and fiercely fights for women's rights.