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I made these "Open Belly" figures primarily and primordially because they gave me hope. They also embody my pride and pleasure in being in the company of creative, powerful, steadfast women who share my beliefs and convictions regarding politics, environmental protection, sustainability and simply being outdoors.

MJ represents the astonishing number of women who stepped forward to offer me help, support, humor and compassion. I think of them as newly hatched sisters - from fierce old biddies to a lovely fine-feathered friend who has faced adversity on many fronts and still comes out swinging, laughing, and always with a good story about her backyard chickens.