

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Helping to raise the profile of artists through projects and events.

Who wants more profile?

Would you like more people to see your work, to sell more and to be more successful? An important part of our business is to help our customers to achieve these goals at every available opportunity.

Partnership Projects is an ambitious and exciting programme that involves collaborating with artists to instigate public art commissions, and sponsoring artists to participate in unusual and original projects.

These Projects are different from the work that we 'normally' do at Castle Fine Arts. The main thrust of our work is, and always will be to provide the best foundry services for artists. And as a natural development of the positive working relationship that we have with these artists, a number of original projects have emerged and developed.

Partnership Projects brings together these diverse projects, gives them a name, and provides an opportunity to promote and develop this ongoing programme of projects and events.

Partnership Projects are in addition to our everyday support for artists, where we take a genuine and active interest in your business - openly sharing information that will be of benefit to you. Many little extras that are free to our customers - displaying finished work and brochures at the foundry, referrals to galleries and collectors, and links to your website from ours. We believe that it is through helping our customers grow their business that we naturally strengthen our own.

Marcello Giorgi and Michelangelo

Marcello Giorgi is an eminent Italian sculptor from the Tuscan town of Pietrasanta, famous for its marble quarries. Michelangelo himself used to visit the town to choose marble for his sculptures, and when the BBC made a programme about his life and work, they commissioned Marcello to make an artwork for the programme.



Marcello Giorgi checking the wax for his 'Sleeping Cupid'

Many of you will have seen The Divine Michelangelo, which was broadcast by the BBC in late February, 2004. The programme used dramatic reconstructions and leading experts to tell the story of the most gifted and tempestuous artist in history. Much of the filming for 'The Divine Michelangelo' took place at Pietrasanta, - for example, the scene in which Michelangelo transported his sculpture of David, which weighed several tons, along uneven roads with a structure he had designed himself, took place there.

The BBC crew also spent considerable time at Marcello's studio, filming his progress on the commission, which involved making a clay sculpture of a sleeping cupid - his interpretation of a lost Michelangelo sculpture. Marcello moulded and cast the sculpture in resin, to look like marble, after which it was shipped to London for the final filming stages.

So where does Castle Fine Arts come in? Well, Marcello was instrumental in helping Castle Fine Arts to purchase the Pantograph, and it was he who trained our staff to use it at his studio in Italy. So it was with great pleasure that we agreed to sponsor his first casting of a copy of the Sleeping Cupid in bronze, both to preserve it in a permanent material and to work with Marcello in promoting the work as a limited edition. We look forward to continuing our friendships with the artists and craftsmen of Pietrasanta, and hope to have more to tell you about their work in Crucible Updates.

Public Art Commissions

Working with Chris Kelly, a highly talented and experienced figurative sculptor based in Yorkshire, Castle Fine Arts is collaborating on two public art commissions. They are a 9 foot tall commemorative statue of England rugby league legend Willie Horne to stand in his home town of Barrow, and a sculpture to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, staged annually in Builth Wells.

Both commissions came through people contacting us directly through referrals and we are in this way becoming more actively involved in instigating projects.

Chris Kelly will create maquettes for approval by the committees responsible for the commissions and the works will then be enlarged at the foundry using the pantograph. He will then refine the full size works before casting. A further benefit is that individuals or committees will be able to visit the foundry to see the work being made.

The Shepherd has been commissioned by

The Royal Welsh Show Committee to celebrate the show's centenary, and as it was important that the sculpture was made in Wales, we are delighted to be able to accommodate their needs.

More news on these and other projects in Crucible Updates.

Denise Dutton

Staffordshire based Denise Dutton is an exceptionally talented and dedicated equestrian sculptor who has been casting her work at Castle for many years - from small pieces to life-size horses. People love her work, and Denise's aim is for more of the public to see and enjoy it in places not normally associated with sculptures - places where people share an empathy with the subject matter.

The idea of touring a life-size horse sculpture to different events around the country, led to Castle sponsoring Denise by casting the work in resin, and delivering and collecting the work. This solves the problem and expense of transporting a heavy bronze. Now her work can be offered as an attraction at an event, and through publicity this helps Denise's work to be seen by a wider public.

So far the work has been on display at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire and also at the Manchester Art Fair with more travels in the months ahead!

We hope that you have been inspired to talk to us about your ideas for working with us.

We want to collaborate with artists on a wide range of schemes in **Partnership Projects**, and look forward to bringing you news of forthcoming projects in Crucible Update.



Denise Dutton with 'Lady'

“I have been taking work to Castle Fine Arts for about nine years. And over that time I have wanted increasingly to sculpt and cast a life-size piece of my own work as opposed to a commissioned piece. Castle Fine Arts has always been very supportive and encouraging of my work, to the point where this year Chris gave me the opportunity to realise this project and sponsor both the moulding and casting of Lady – a life-size horse.”

DENISE DUTTON

crucible

www.castlefinearts.co.uk

CASTLE FINE ARTS

foundry

First Issue 2004

Bronze casting news for people who connect with sculpture

Introducing the Artists' Foundry

For a sculptor, selecting a foundry to cast your work is a fine balance based on trust and a shared vision.

Whether you are having a piece of your work cast for the very first time, or have used foundries many times, placing your work in the hands of the people who will transform it into bronze is never easy.

You've invested a lot of time and energy into the work, and now you are about to invest your money. You may need to give your clients commitments on delivery times. At Castle Fine Arts we understand this and from the first enquiry we will do all we can to reassure you that your work is in safe hands.

How can we help you?

Friendly knowledgeable staff and an open attitude to business means that we not only listen, and answer your questions, but also ask the right questions, so that we gain a clear understanding of your requirements.

So the extensive experience we have accumulated over the years, casting hundreds of artworks for dozens of artists - from the smallest most delicate pieces to monumental public commissions - is available to you from the very first contact.

Talking to us, visiting one of our two foundry workshops, meeting the staff and seeing the quality of the work at first hand, go a long way to reassure, but ultimately the finished work must speak for itself.

Time invested in discussing the work at the beginning and keeping you updated on progress are major factors in achieving the desired result.

But it doesn't stop there!

In fact we hope that it's just the start - because the best working relationships are based on mutual trust and respect, and are developed over time through learning about each other.

Many of our customers have been working with us since Castle started fourteen years ago, and involve us in their future projects from the idea stage. Our technical and practical advice often saves a lot of expense, time and the odd headache! By creating costing and production details to support artists' proposals, we can also help you to prepare for commission presentations. If you require this support, please don't hesitate to contact us. Our technical expertise and experience is at your disposal, and our advice is FREE.

We believe that your peace of mind comes from knowing that you're working with a foundry that has proven skills and experience, and genuinely cares about your work and reputation - leaving you free to concentrate on creating new work.

Why not make us part of your team?

“Castle Fine Arts is essential to our success in making sculptures - over the last 14 years, we've worked with them on many public art commissions. It's a complex business, so it's great to know that they are a part of our team”.

Phil Bews and Diane Gorvin were Castle Fine Arts' first customers; they have worked on over 70 public art commissions.



'Momentum' by Cathy Lewis



Phil Bews and Diane Gorvin Founding

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- The Stroud Workshop
 - Scaling Up with the Pantograph
 - Bronze Casting

CASTLE FINE ARTS
foundry

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Making a commitment.

100%
guarantee

the work At Castle Fine Arts we always go that bit further. We endeavour to satisfy our customers even when the work has left the building. In fact, we give a 100% guarantee to our build and finish quality!

the budget Making your budget go further whilst adding value throughout the project is our aim and commitment.

the deadline Our project management teams take care of the detail and the unforeseen, providing our customers with confidence and assurance.

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First Issue 04

Proud in Stroud

THE STROUD FOUNDRY WORKSHOP

Giving artists better access to our services

Visit our foundry workshop near Stroud, Gloucestershire and you'll notice the absence of the noise and heat of the foundry. Strange for an Art Foundry maybe, but at Castle Fine Arts we do things differently. All of our casting is done at our foundry in Wales, because by focussing on casting at one site, we aim to bring you the best quality casting in the country.

At our main facility in Llanrhaeadr, we're developing and refining our casting processes to deliver ever better quality and value. We are learning from research trips to some of the biggest most advanced art foundries in the world, as well as learning from industrial operations. Read about our recent visit to some New York foundries in the next issue.

So how do sculptures travel from Stroud to Wales and Back?

With great care. You can trust us to take care of the logistics for you. You now have the option of delivering work to Stroud or Llanrhaeadr, whichever is most convenient for you. We also have a unique collect and deliver service for artists – so you can choose to have your work picked up by us from any part of the country.

So what's available at Stroud?

What you'll find is that we've concentrated on providing the things that our customers need – convenient location, well equipped mould and wax

areas, and a spacious and well lit metal fabrication shop that provides finishing and patination second to none.

We can now arrange for you to check waxes, metalwork and patination at Llanrhaeadr or Stroud – just let us know which suits you best.

Producing bronze sculptures requires space and equipment, but the most important ingredient in any business has to be the quality of its people. We are proud to say that at both Llanrhaeadr and Stroud we have a fine team with vast experience gained through many years working closely with artists. People who know how important your work is to you. We look forward to welcoming you to our Stroud workshop – just give us a call to arrange a visit.

Come and see us at Stroud soon.



▲ Patinating Giles Penny's 'Noah'

▼ Sophie Ryder's work at the Stroud Foundry Workshop



"Between Llanrhaeadr and Stroud Chris Butler has brought together some of the most highly skilled workers in Britain. It is a pleasure to be able to work so closely with people who understand and interpret my work so well, with such precision and sensitivity."

SOPHIE RYDER

'Paint Pots' by Sophie Ryder ▶



thinking big

THERE'S GREAT POTENTIAL IN THINKING BIG!

Make scaling up headaches a thing of the past

Artists' maquettes and scale models can now be enlarged to a maximum height of six metres with the Pantograph, a highly flexible, three-dimensional pointing machine. The Pantograph uses simple technology that complements the hands-on processes that we use at the foundry, and it can be folded down for transportation and use in any part of the World. Its potential for artists is absolutely amazing. Chris Butler, Company Director at Castle Fine Arts tells us more....

Creating large sculpture is a team effort, and for thousands of years artists have utilised the technical skills of craftsmen to aid them in the execution of their artistic dreams.

It's your reputation, and we take it very seriously

For the sculptor working alone in the studio, being offered a large scale commission can be a very daunting experience. By expanding our services to include enlarging, artists have access to a team packed with a wealth of skill and experience. And they are available to you, because we believe that our most important role is to support the sculptors who work with us in every way possible.

The Pantograph is a rare and valued piece of equipment, and we're the only art foundry in the country making it available to you. It was purchased in the Italian town of Pietrasanta, famous around the world for its sculptors, artisans, foundries and marble quarries. The opportunity to acquire this rare piece of equipment, and the training required to use it, was only possible through the friends we have made in the town over the last couple of years.

But the Pantograph is only a machine....

The real benefit to the sculptor who wins the large commission is what comes with it!

A team of skilled and dedicated craftsmen, a studio large enough to accommodate very large works and one of the country's leading art foundries in the same building!

The biggest benefit of all however – even more than the massive amount of time you will save – is knowing that you can definitely take on any project of any size, safe in the knowledge that we will make sure you will achieve the desired result on time and on budget.

The amount of involvement artists want to have in the scaling up process varies, and to accommodate this we offer a range of services to help sculptors create that larger work from their maquette:

- Armature fabrication which can be built and delivered to your studio;
- Blocking out of basic shape in clay
- Surface detail
- Final finishing in clay for moulding
- Plaster positive for refining or archive

Even if you think that you'll never need the Pantograph to scale up your own sculpture, you'll be fascinated when you see this simple and logical piece of equipment working. Just get in touch to arrange an informal demonstration to coincide with your next visit to Llanrhaeadr or Stroud.



"I had never imagined using such a contraption to enlarge a maquette, but I must say it was really quite a remarkable process, which can give you some comfort particularly when you are happy with the maquette. There is also the advantage of the foundry understanding the design prior to casting and finishing."

STEPHEN BROADBENT

- 1 Scaling up with the Pantograph
- 2 Stephen Broadbent working on the enlarged sculpture
- 3 The pantograph can easily be transported to any location – this 4.5 metre enlargement for Liverpool based sculptor Stephen Broadbent was carried out at his studio

Leap of Faith

How do you make a 16-ft bronze figure, weighing two tons, stand at a 45-degree angle on one leg, on top of a 10-ft sphere?

2002 was a big year for Manchester as the city hosted the Commonwealth Games. The centrepiece of the events was the magnificent new stadium – now the home of Manchester City Football Club.

Outside the stadium stands a massive 28-ft high bronze statue depicting an athlete leaping out of the blocks, by North-West sculptor Colin Spofforth, that was specially commissioned to celebrate the games.

The figure stands on a 10-ft diameter bronze globe with the names of the Commonwealth countries running around the base.

When Colin conceived the idea for Athlete he wanted to create a dynamic figure which captured the essence of the power and strength of the sprinter. He also wanted people standing and looking up at the statue to feel as if they were on the track, with the athlete leaping over them – a worm's eye view! Having employed a top Olympic athlete as a model, Colin produced a design that captures the essence of movement and poise magnificently.

So how do you make a 16-ft bronze figure, weighing two tons, stand at a 45-degree angle on one leg, on top of a 10-ft sphere?

Making sure the sculpture would be structurally safe was an absolute priority, and the architectural engineers ARUP who built the stadium acted as consultants. Inside the statue are reinforcements designed to carry the weight of the sculpture. These include a tube of 25mm

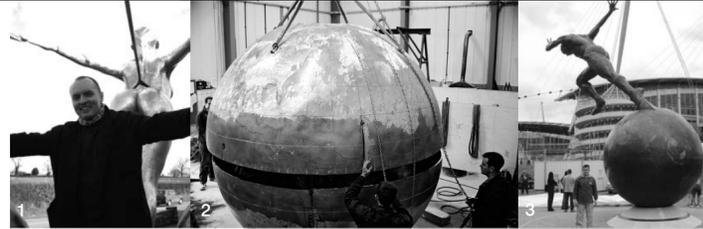
thick stainless steel, which runs down the supporting leg, which is in turn bolted to a cast concrete column inside the globe.

Castle had been casting Colin's work for several years and we had been involved with large projects for other sculptors but this was big!

Colin's full-size clay figure was moulded at his studio, with the moulds being transported to the foundry to be cast using the lost wax process. The pattern for the 10-ft globe was also made at the foundry, and was sand-cast in eight sections, before being fabricated and finished.

The size of the figure and the globe meant they had to be transported separately to the stadium and it was not until the sculpture was finally bolted in position, and the crane released, that we saw the work complete for the first time. The athlete stood on top of the globe and we felt on top of the world!

The 'Athlete' was a great project to be involved in, and has led to other opportunities for Colin and for Castle Fine Arts. We are currently putting the finishing touches to 'The Venus Trinity', another very big sculpture for Colin. The work incorporates a fountain, and consists of three 13-ft bronze figures, standing on a 20-ft column, to be installed in the centre of a lake outside a new office development in Manchester.



"The team at Castle have a positive, constructive attitude that is essential when working on engineering projects of this scale and nature. They have proved themselves time and again as capable of delivering works within the strict schedule dictated by our clients."

COLIN SPOFFORTH

Credits:

- 1 Colin Spofforth overseeing installation of The Venus Trinity
- 2 Fabricating the bronze globe
- 3 Athlete installed outside the new stadium
- 4 Putting the final touches to the sculpture



◀ Test-lifting Colin Spofforth's 'The Venus Trinity'

Castle Corner is created by Amy Sterly, our wax mould specialist

