



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

Forging New Partnerships



When Midas Art walked through the doors of Castle Fine Arts in the middle of 2005 it founded the start of a relationship which has now evolved into something new, exciting and refreshing.

Midas Art is a concepts company working with a select group of creative businesses to provide integrated art and design for public spaces. The company will be promoting all the businesses it works with and have particular emphasis on initiating new projects. The common philosophy between Midas Art and Castle Fine Arts in terms of service and style of doing business proved a great starting point.

Chris Jones, one of the directors at Midas Art, explains the reasons why the partnership should work so well for everyone concerned: *“Castle Fine Arts Foundry has developed an enviable reputation for the casting and installation of bronze sculpture on public art projects. Most importantly however, it has built up a high level of trust and respect from the artists it serves, the people who create these amazing sculptures. The foundry will now be able to augment the services it offers to its artists by promoting their work through Midas Art. It's a win-win for the clients, artists and both businesses alike.”*

To find out more about Midas Art please visit their website at www.midasart.com

Find out more...

Crucible is published four times a year. If your not already on our mailing list contact us right away: t: 01691 780 261; f: 01691 780 011; e: castlefinearts@btconnect.com. or complete and return the slip below.

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I would like to know more about:

Sharing web links

Advertising your event

Midas Art

Please note – we will not pass your details on to any third parties without your permission.

April 06

Patination - The Finishing Touch

Our approach to patination may differ to other foundries. We have always encouraged artists to learn about the processes we use. Customers benefit from getting involved and appreciate our openness to how we approach this part of our work. And it really helps us to find out what you want!

Within both branches of Castle Fine Arts we have experts in their fields, who are always on hand to give advice and help when needed.

Nick Watts, Patination Manager based at Llanrhaeadr comments on working with our clients.

“Having the artist working with you during the patination allows you to have constant discussion about the process and the desired effects. It's also an investment of time whilst working with them, as future jobs are completed with more confidence and we achieve the correct result first time”.

Sculptor Mark Richards regularly uses the patination area at Llanrhaeadr to finish his pieces.

“I have always preferred to do my own patination and was pleasantly surprised at how willing the team at Castle were to accommodate this on the premises. They provide encouragement and support backed with a wealth of technical know-how.”



Above: Mark Richards portrait head of 'Georgina' and Nick Watts patinating 'Otters' by Michelle Coxon

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.

CASTLE FINE ARTS
foundry

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Designed and produced by SC Creative Limited 07940 916759

crucible

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CASTLE FINE ARTS
foundry

Issue 5

Helping Sculptors to Create Landmarks

The Art of Managing Complexity

> **Castle Fine Arts and Yorkshire sculptor Ian Randall have recently completed one of the most complex projects ever produced at the foundry.**

Complex not only in casting and engineering but also in installation. It has taken its place at the heart of one of Leeds' most prestigious developments. The work entitled 'Steeped Vessels', took its inspiration from the former history of the site, and now sits proudly in the main public square at the award winning the £100 million Brewery Wharf scheme. The scheme was the brainchild of property company Rushbond plc.

Jonathan Maud, Managing Director commented: *“It has been wonderfully rewarding to work with Ian on something so special for this city.”*

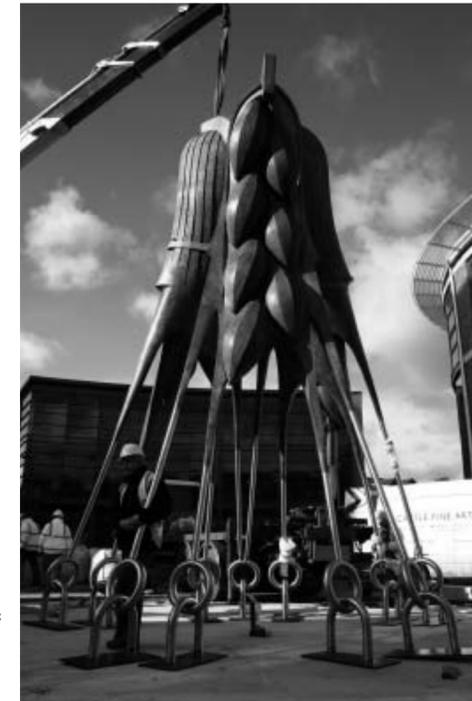
The thematic sculpture, which is 4 metres wide and 6 metres in height, is crafted in bronze and stainless steel and comprises of three vertically placed boat/ barge forms resting against one another to create a tripod like structure. The bow of the boats face skywards whilst the sterns evolve into a series of tapering legs. These legs represent feathers of barleycorn and tensioned rope – which draws reference to the site's previous uses. This theme is continued beneath the sculpture and beyond, with barleycorns placed in a scattered fashion moving away from the structure.

Located within a public square bordered by bustling restaurants, bars, office accommodation and residential apartments the artwork provides a dramatic focal point and comes to life as people pass around, through and beneath the sculpture.

Mark Bust, Director of DLA Landscape & Urban Design, headed the team responsible for the design of the public realm together with the integration of the artwork into the overall development, he commented: *“It creates a real focal point for this area of the development and enhances the scheme and enriches the lives of people living working and even passing through the space.”*

David Hill, Project Manager for Rushbond plc said his first involvement on a public art project had been a fascinating and enjoyable experience. Castle Fine Arts gave David the confidence that Ian Randall's concept could become reality.

“From my personal point of view I have been able to witness the entire process starting with our artist at work in his studio to preparation of sand casts, casting the bronzes, connecting them together, right through to a very well organised and successful installation in the main square of our Brewery Wharf redevelopment.”



'Steeped Vessels' in Leeds

During my visits to Llanrhaeadr for progress checks I had the opportunity of a detailed foundry tour to be able to understand the complexity of the processes and the skilled professional way that Castle addresses each commission. During this tour I was able to see Steeped Vessels in its various stages of casting. Now when I see the piece in its place within Brewery Wharf I will appreciate the major team effort needed to achieve such a magnificent sculpture”

Jonathan Maud of developer Rushbond Plc concluded: *“Developments like Brewery Wharf add an obvious and tangible benefit to a city but I believe that the addition of artwork like 'Steeped Vessels' adds that extra impact and richness to a scheme that is so often lacking in today's harsh commercial world. 'Steeped Vessels' and public art like this is a huge asset to an area and most importantly to the people within in.”*

If you would like to read more about the amazing project please log on to www.sculpture.gb.com

Our Experience - Your Peace of Mind.

The unveiling of a new sculpture is the result of a lot of hard work and a real team effort. It's an exciting time for everyone involved and at Castle Fine Arts we are very proud of the role we play in creating public art – a role which extends way beyond the technical aspects of the casting.

We work in the public arena on high profile projects and understand the importance of working to deadlines and within budgets.

From the very start we are there to support you and focus on the requirements of the whole project.

We appreciate and accommodate the very different demands of clients, contractors and artists, and success can often depend on clear communication between everyone in the team. Our experience means we can anticipate problems and keep everyone updated on progress.

Our wide range of contacts and working partners, developed working on many successful projects is available to you to provide everything you need right through to installation. We can even provide maintenance schedules for the future.

How much will it cost Castle to manage your project? This all depends on the complexity and over all budgets.

An added expense? Or an investment which guarantees a smooth running and successful project, frees up your time to concentrate on your work or the next project and gives you complete peace of mind.

For details please contact our Project Manger, Steve Page or go to www.sculpture.gb.com to see how we create landmarks.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Tenfold

Opening up the Sculpture World



CONTEMPORARY
FIGURATIVE
BRONZE SCULPTURE

In the last issue of 'Crucible' we told you about a wonderful opportunity we were offering a group of young artists in partnership with Broomhill Sculpture Gardens. The casting costs would be funded and then exhibited at Broomhill during late spring.

The exhibition is nearly upon us, and many exciting sculptures have made their way through Castle Fine Arts in the lead up. Rinus, Owner of Broomhill Sculpture Gardens, tells us a little more about the group and their work.

"Tenfold" is a group of artists who are content to accept the limitations of a traditional framework, without paying particular attention to the current month's art magazines.

There have always been, and there continue to be, many artists for whom the making process is central – fundamental – to their artistic life.

The 'Tenfold' artists tend to work figuratively, usually in response to life forms whether human or animal. Most often they are communicating about the experience of being human. They involve themselves intensely with the materials and processes of their art, exploring and discovering as they go, and reacting as the works speak back to them."

Lucy Kinsella is one of the artists in the 'Tenfold' group.

"It's been great getting involved with the 'Tenfold' project. I've had the opportunity of producing a couple of new sculptures, with Chris and Rinus funding the casting cost, this has been very much appreciated – foundry costs can restrict the development of new sculpture and I'm delighted to follow through my ideas into solid bronze.



Lucy Kinsella with her 'Boxing Hares'

"Tenfold" is a diverse and interesting group of artists brought together by Chris and Rinus' shared desire to produce and market high quality contemporary bronze sculpture. I look forward to seeing the results at the launch of this venture at Broomhill later this spring"

If you are interested in visiting Broomhill during the exhibition please visit their website for more information www.broomhillart.co.uk

talktalk

News for and about Artists

Oh Willies!

There has been many a squinted eye and pained face amongst the men in foundry this past month, whilst we've been working on a real ding dong of a job!

In January we received an awaited box of 12 wax phalluses, each 12 inches long with wings.

Once cast in bronze the pieces are to be mounted on an egg shaped steel structure which will be installed in Greece next year. The overall height of the finished sculpture will be 4 metres and 3.5 metres wide.

The title of the sculpture is *"The Big Egg and The Roaming Phalluses"*, artist Kalliopi Lemos explains the story behind the sculpture *"The egg represents the material, or the earthy part and the phalluses the spirit, the immaterial."*



The Charles James Fox sculpture by Ian Rank-Broadley at the Stroud Foundry



Flying Phallus

Six Of The Best

Phil Tregoning of Tregoning Fine Art tells us about the latest collaboration for Castle Fine Arts.

"Tregoning Fine Art is featuring a collection of sculpture cast at Castle Fine Arts Foundry. We are really delighted to show work in collaboration with a foundry that have as much connection to the spirit of art itself, as to the casting process. Here at Tregoning Gallery we pride ourselves in not only exhibiting great subject matter but also great quality. Often here is equal pleasure to be experienced in the surface of the material used for sculpture as in the visual stimulation of the piece itself."

The artists involved:

- Giles Penny
- Charlotte Latham
- Carol Peace
- Anna Gillespie
- Graham Ibbeson
- Emma Rodgers

Come and indulge in a collection of work by 'Six of the Best' from Castle Fine Arts on 29th April at Tregoning Gallery, 4 Queen Street, Derby DE1 3DL. Tel: 01332 242 427.



Carlisle Unveils Their New Signing

It was a proud day for Carlisle United when a dynamic statue of one of the club's great heroes, Hugh McIlmoyle was unveiled.

The sculpture was commissioned by Story Homes to stand outside the newly developed stadium entrance. Hugh was famous for his heading ability and sculptor Chris Kelly worked closely with Hugh himself to create the statue.

We asked Fred Story, Director of Story Homes and owner of Carlisle United Football Club, his and the fans reaction to the clubs most recent signing!

"The Hughie McIlmoyle statue is hugely popular with Carlisle United fans as well as local residents. We have not had one negative comment, which at a football club is probably the greatest testament you could achieve!"

The statue has brought some character and quality to what was previously a pretty dour entrance to Brunton Park."

'Hughie McIlmoyle' by Chris Kelly



'Frank Whittle' by Stephen Broadbent

Father of the Jet Engine

September 2005 saw the installation of public sculptor Stephen Broadbent most recent work.

We were able to help Stephen early on in production by taking the Pantograph to his studio and scaling up the original work.

The bronze sculpture reflects the spirit and energy of Sir Frank Whittle and his determination to succeed. Sir Frank Whittle was the inspirational leader of a team of engineers and technicians that developed and tested the world's first jet engine at the British Thomson - Houston factory in Rugby.

The shape of the sculpture is reminiscent of an airscrew, with the aircraft propeller being transformed into the shape of an internal turbine, reflecting the new technology of Power Jets.

The open window is symbolic of Whittle the visionary, who could see the potential of Jet Power, this image is inspired by a painting by Rod Lovesey which depicts Frank Whittle standing at the test bed of his first engine with it's exhaust pipe projecting through the factory window.

A world map indicating international flight paths recognises Frank Whittle's vision in the 1930's for travel by air jet, his determination to succeed helped realise our ability to travel across continents - something which we now take for granted.

If you enjoy reading about our recent projects, why not hop online and check out our website www.sculpture.gb.com where you will find more stories.



Students 'on tour' at Castle Fine Arts Foundry and Gallery

ON SHOW @ The Foundry

We are getting an ever increasing number of interested visitors to the foundry. We like to give everybody an insight into the fascinating process but unfortunately there may not always be completed work to view.

Our new gallery showroom at Llanthead solves this problem as well as giving us a chance to display the range of our customers work. We don't plan to be a commercial gallery but opportunities which arise for commissions and sales will be followed up swiftly.

The showroom has photographs of previous projects, examples of current works including sculptors drawings, patination samples and an interesting display of the process. It is also a great space to meet with clients.

Hopefully many people will benefit from this new addition to the foundry.

Find out more about visiting or having your work displayed at www.sculpture.gb.com

THE DARWIN CONNECTION

The Darwin Elgar Connection

What have Darwin and Elgar got in common?

Both eminent Britons known around the world? You'll find them on our bank notes?

They are also commemorated in bronze public sculpture, created by sculptor Jemma Pearson and cast by Castle Fine Arts!

The City of Hereford is strongly connected with the famous composer Elgar and it was this that led the commissioning of a bronze sculpture complete with his beloved bicycle, which now proudly stands in the Cathedral grounds.

"The sculpture was commissioned in 2002 by 'The Elgar in Hereford group' which was specially formed two years earlier to mark the city's special relationship with the composer."

The life size bronze is set at ground level on the north side of cathedral close where every third year the cathedral hosts the 'Three Choirs Festival'.

The sculpture was unveiled with full Civic ceremony and a Cathedral service by Dame Janet Baker CH, DBE in September 2005.

A limited edition print and medallion showing the statue in situ is due to go on sale for the 'Three Choirs Festival' to be held in Hereford, August 2006.

Back in the Millennium year, a one and a third life size portrait bronze of Charles Darwin was commissioned by Shrewsbury School as their most illustrious pupil. The bronze sculpture was installed by Castle Fine Arts looking out across the grounds of the school. A team from the foundry were there to be acknowledged at the unveiling in September 2000 by Headmaster Ted Maidment and Sir David Attenborough.

A limited edition, smaller version of the school statue stading 15" high is also being sold to raise funds for the Foundation of Shrewsbury School.

"Through this commission I have now made several trips to the Galapagos Islands taking my family with me and have built up a fruitful relationship with the Galapagos Conservation Trust assisting them in their efforts to resist increasing pressures on the Archipelago with all its conservation challenges. A series of bronze animal sculptures are being sold on board



'Elgar' by Jemma Pearson

boats of the long established cruise company Quasar Nautica in an effort to support the Charles Darwin Research Station based on the islands."

Looking to the future now, Jemma has been engaged to work on a number of physically and privately commissioned bronze figures. Presently she is planning a project to raise funds through sculpture to assist the emergency crisis in North and East Africa.

Jemma Pearson and Sir David Attenborough at the unveiling of 'Darwin'

