

# Creating a Park For Peace

We became aware of Manchester Aid to Kosovo (MaK) in 2005 when the charity approached us for advice on creating a small foundry in Kosovo. MAK visited the foundry to view the process just before Christmas in 2005. That was the start of our relationship with MaK.

By September 2006, Mike Anitt the charity's secretary had come to work full time for us and Chris Butler was planning his first trip to Kosovo – the foundry donated a lot of the materials needed to set up a small scale foundry and gives continued support.

Mike tells us more:

"The industrial region of Podujevë in the north east of Kosovo does not receive many visitors. The town suffered badly during the war in the late 1990s and since then the trains have stopped running and the economy has collapsed. Unemployment is sky high and the dusty streets are full of young people with nothing to do and nowhere to go. The single mention the town gets in the only guidebook to the newly independent state is to warn travellers not to bother going there.

MaK has a 10 year history in Kosovo and has developed over this time from a crisis aid response to a charity in which art projects are now central. MAK supports recovery in Kosovo through aid, recreation, sport and artistic projects and works with the local community and their children to provide a green space for relaxation,

wellbeing, contemplation, exercise and art projects to enrich the lives of people who want to put the horrors of conflict behind them. For the 2007/8 financial year 57% of our expenditure of £34,873 was spent on art projects

The bulk of our arts costs have been met through an extensive network of support – raising over £100,000 support in kind over the last 3 years, of which, Castle Fine Arts Foundry Limited has been one of our biggest contributors.

MaK is extremely grateful for the support we have received from Castle over the last two years which has enabled continual expansion of MaK's creative work. We are a very small Manchester based charity but we are now well on course for creating a centre of artistic excellence in Kosovo, further exhibitions, concerts, readings, film projects and performance, and have developed an extensive international artistic network. The main locations for our work are Kosovo and Manchester.

Recently MAK gratefully accepted the donation of the sculpture 'Iron Man' by British sculptor Ken Clark (RSBS) which 'kick starts' the art installation programme in the Peace Park. Sculptures are being created by British and Kosovar artists specifically for the Manchester Art for Peace Sculpture Park and our close links with Castle Fine Arts Foundry, The Eden Project and Yorkshire Sculpture Park help facilitate links with artists



and the production of their work.

MAK's October trip is approaching fast and a team of volunteers from Castle Fine Arts Foundry are making preparations to drive out to Kosovo with sculptures and much needed equipment. The team will be joining artists from Kosovo to get some onsite casting done!

A sculpture by Agron Blacqori, a young Kosovan sculptor will be cast at Castle Fine Arts, returning to Kosovo in March 2009 and unveiled as part of the opening ceremony.

We are deeply interested in hearing from any artists or organisations who may be interested in helping or supporting us.

Without the continued professional support of Castle Fine Arts Foundry Limited we would be unable to continue with many of our arts projects. Big thanks to all the team!"

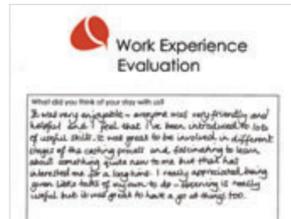
If you are interested in finding out more about MaK or how you can help please contact Mike Anitt on [mikeanitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mikeanitt@yahoo.co.uk) or call the foundry on 01691 780 261.

## Work experience opportunities

Castle Fine Arts is committed to providing high quality work experience programmes for people wanting to know more about art casting.

Over the last 10 years the foundry has evolved a varied programme of work experience to people from all over the world including students, practicing artists or people involved in any other aspect of the sculpture business.

If you would like to come to spend some time at the foundry on our work experience please contact Kim on 01691 780261 or [kimcleminson@bronze-foundry.co.uk](mailto:kimcleminson@bronze-foundry.co.uk) for an application form.



## Best small business in Wales

Castle Fine Arts Foundry has been named as the best small business in Wales in the British Small Business Champions 2008.

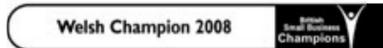
After managing director, Chris Butler founded the company in 1990 it has gone from strength to strength working with many artists from the UK and internationally. This award recognises us for our achievements and contributions to the art world.

We won £1,000 to be spent on the benefit of the business, and we will now go forward to compete against five other champions from across the UK, for the title of national champion

2008 with a top prize of £10,000.

British Small Business Champions was founded by the Federation of Small Business (FSB) in 2002. It is the only national awards scheme solely for small businesses. Its aims are to celebrate and heighten the profile of the UK's small businesses.

Chris Butler had this to say about the achievement: "The whole team at Castle Fine Arts has worked so hard to build our reputation and this award recognises this and that this is a small business doing big things".



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# Crucible



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Welsh Champion 2008



## Where dreams go...

Martin Heron has been working closely with Castle to enlarge and cast what is now being called the new local celebrity of Strabane in Northern Ireland.

The piece entitled 'Where Dreams Go', a 2.5m tall bronze pig is sited in the old 18th Century Pork and Butter Market now redeveloped as the 'The Alley' Courtyard. The body of the pig is engraved with Celtic scroll and spiral patterns, like those found on standing stones, burial mounds and sacred sites throughout Ireland.

The pig was an important commodity in rural Ireland, the majority of the population kept a pig both as a source of food but more importantly as a means to pay the rent.

The work was commissioned by Strabane District Council for 'The Alley' Arts & Cultural Centre and funded by Northern Ireland's Department for Social Development.

Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie commented: "This piece will be a real contribution to the town and will make people stop, look again, talk about it and smile. That is exactly what good public art should do."

Nathan Flatman, 'The Alley' Marketing and Development Officer said: "Well we now have a new celebrity on our hands in Strabane. Since the sculpture has gone into place people have been coming in their droves to have their pictures taken next to it, touch it and climb under it. The sculpture is now a major tourist attraction, and we're finding it an ideal back drop for photo shoots."

The sculpture draws upon the real and mythical. It shows a noble and contemplative pig, gazing towards a sky full of possibilities.

Finally, Martin Heron had this to say about working with Castle Fine Arts: "Working with Castle Fine Arts to produce this piece has been a wonderful experience. A dedicated, professional and friendly team producing work to the highest quality and attention to detail. This was an experience I intend to repeat."



## From Wood to Metal

### David Nash Commissions

We have recently completed some major works for sculptor David Nash, who commissioned the foundry to translate a number of his pieces into metal.

"Humps" was moulded from the charred wood originals and commissioned for Korea. In Korea it is impossible to site any wooden sculptures outside as they get eaten hence the need for them to be cast in bronze.

"Lightning Strike" was originally made in 1989 from a whole ash tree which was blown over in the 1987 storms. The wooden sculpture had been installed in a private estate in Sussex for just under 20 years, but in



'Humps' by David Nash for Korea

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## Find out more...

Crucible is published twice a year. If you not already on our mailing list contact us right away: t: 01691 780 261; f: 01691 780 011; e: [info@bronze-foundry.co.uk](mailto:info@bronze-foundry.co.uk) or complete and return the slip below.

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Autumn 08

# Foundry takes to the road

Linking in with two exhibitions, Laura Ford at Roche Court and Sophie Ryder at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Castle Fine Arts Foundry recently had the opportunity to work with these two esteemed sculpture organisations by providing a one day bronze casting demonstration at each venue. The day consisted of setting up a small outdoor foundry and casting ceramic shells under the watchful eye of the interested public; it also provided an excellent opportunity to explain the process and give people a insight into what bronze casting consists of.

At Roche Court we cast some of Laura's smaller pieces whilst at Yorkshire we worked with students from the University of Teesside who produced their own artwork which we cast into bronze on the day. Also cast was a piece of Sophie's work which she has donated to be sold for charity at a later date.

Following on from these courses, we took part in a seminar at Roche Court and have plans for further one day courses in the future. At Yorkshire Sculpture Park the foundry has been invited to provide two one week courses in the spring and autumn of 2009.

Janette Pratt, Education Curator at Yorkshire Sculpture Park has this to say about the course: "Working with Castle Fine Arts Foundry has been an inspiring and enjoyable experience. Together we created an opportunity to share insights into the making of the Sophie Ryder exhibition and to experience the practicalities of the bronze casting process with University of Teesside Fine Art Degree students.

Educating students about this historic casting process was really rewarding, they could turn their hands to something they hadn't tried before, and working with Castle Fine Arts Foundry allowed them to have vital resources and experience that they wouldn't have had otherwise.

The workshop focused the group on a production technique which creates special and rare objects; it heightened their appreciation for both the skill involved, and the magnificent bronze artworks by the likes of Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth on display at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

As well as realizing their own artworks, the students were able to see an original artwork by Sophie Ryder being poured- a truly special day."

Lucy Sailsbury, Education Co-ordinator at New Art Centre, Roche Court had this to say: "As part of the Roche Court Education programme we held a Bronze Casting Workshop with the artist Laura Ford and Castle Fine Arts. Laura Ford chose Castle Fine Arts to cast the intricate and fragile sculptures 'Espaliered Women' for her solo exhibition in the Gallery at Roche Court.

A hugely enjoyable day, that was both inspiring and enlightening, offering a rare opportunity to discuss the intimate collaboration between artist and maker."



## Footballing Legend's Unveiled

Two more sporting heroes joined the ever growing list to be cast at Castle.

### In Stoke...

A statue of England goalkeeping hero Gordon Banks was unveiled at Stoke City by his friend, the legendary Pele. Also there to celebrate the occasion was Archbishop Desmond Tutu and many other members of the original World Cup winning team. It was a proud day for the foundry and sculptor Andy Edwards, who said:

"It was an incredible honour to have the piece unveiled by Pelé and Archbishop Tutu and a great pleasure to share the day with everyone from Castle Fine Arts who had worked hard to get the statue finished for such an important deadline.

The completion of the modest life-size 1966 bronze will shortly become part of a much larger monument to be built in conjunction with Castle. Our Gordon Banks' sculpture when installed early next year will also feature two much larger diving figures and an elaborate scrapbook themed base. It will be the only monument in the Western world dedicated to a goalkeeper and the largest and grandest sporting monument in the Irish and British isles. With Castle's expert guidance and production support, the huge figures of England's greatest ever keeper, including the famous save from Pelé from 1970, will arc in a cantilever dramatically, in a feat of engineering to create the same feeling of awe in a spectator as watching one of Banks' many memorable feats of goalkeeping"

### ...and Barrow

A dynamic sculpture of England football captain Emlyn Hughes by Chris Kelly was recently unveiled in Barrow, the hero's hometown. Stephen Warbrick the retired finance director for the council was the instigator of this and a number of other art projects involving the foundry. He said:

"The sculpture of Emlyn Hughes captures his enthusiasm, energy and athleticism. It is a very dynamic piece of sculpture which has been very well received by the whole of Emlyn's family and local residents"



Emlyn Hughes statue by Chris Kelly

# talk talk



Gordon Banks unveils his statue

## Wales @ Venice Biennale

We were delighted that Castle Fine Arts were our transport sponsors for Wales at the Venice Biennale of Art in 2007. This continued our working partnership that began with Wales at the Venice Biennale in 2005.

In addition to managing the transportation of the work to Venice, Castle Fine Arts, with funding from Arts & Business Cymru, organised a two-day course for the young artists who were the invigilators for the exhibition in Venice. The course took place at the Foundry, Llanhaeadr ym Mochnant (Powys) in January 2008.

Wales went to the Venice Biennale of Art for the third time in 2007. The Venice Biennale is the most important event in the international contemporary arts calendar with over 70 nations now being represented as well as many fringe events during the opening week in June. The artists chosen to represent Wales in 2007 were Richard Deacon, who showed large scale ceramic, wood and stainless steel sculptures; Merlin James, who showed a range of acrylic & mixed media paintings; and Heather & Ivan Morison who showed a video projection work as well as a large scale wooden and glass sculpture, all under the exhibition title 'And so it goes'.

Castle Fine Arts delivered the work to Venice by early May

2007 and collected it at the close of the exhibition in November, where they then delivered it to the first venue of the tour, Oriol Davies in Newtown, Powys. The exhibition then toured to Chapter, Cardiff.

The help that Castle Fine Arts provided on the transport was invaluable and enabled Wales to mount a very complex exhibition in Venice. Not only are all components of the exhibition transported over but also everything else that is needed to make the project run smoothly in a city that sometimes only seems to cater for tourists, and things like printer ink and sellotape can be a challenge to find. A kettle is also an essential item to be packed as in Italy nobody uses them!

We were very pleased that the Managing Director of Castle Fine Arts, Chris Butler, was enthusiastic about the idea of a course at the Foundry. This course enabled the young artists from Wales to find out and understand about the sculpture casting work of Castle Fine Arts. They spent two days at the foundry on January 21st and 22nd, getting an intensive induction into the handling, packing and conservation of precious artworks by the staff at Castle Fine Arts, and also having the opportunity to see the new workshops in Oswestry where the scaling up of artworks takes place as well the finished sculpture of

Owain Glyndwr at Conwen.

Castle Fine Arts staff also helped everyone on the course to make a bronze artwork. This was the first time that many of the young artists have had this opportunity, and it was a fascinating and enlightening experience - learning an age old craft that remains largely unchanged to this present day. Witnessing molten bronze being poured into a mould was a highlight.

Who knows whether those young artists who took part in the course might some day represent Wales at the Venice Biennale? Melissa Hinkin, who lives locally in Pant near Oswestry, has already been back to the foundry to spend her easter break doing work experience.

Laura Ford, one of the artists that represented Wales in Venice in 2005, has subsequently commissioned Castle Fine Arts to undertake bronze casting for a number of commissions. This shows how working together always brings benefits.

We hope that the Castle Fine Arts and Wales at Venice can continue their successful partnership in 2009.

Michael Nixon Commissioner, 2007

## 'Did yer like that?'

Working with artist Jane Robbins earlier this year we created an 8ft memorial to the popular Northerner Fred Dibnah.

The piece was commissioned by the Bolton Civic Trust and was unveiled in Bolton City Centre on 29th April 2008, which would have been Fred's 70th Birthday.



## Sheppard Worlock

Artist Stephen Broadbent

This memorial sculpture celebrates the lives and achievements of Archbishop Derek Worlock and Bishop David Sheppard of Liverpool.

The sculpture sited on Hope Street, which connects Liverpool's two Cathedrals, takes the form of two 4.5m high bronze doors. It has a strong visual presence, being seen clearly along Hope Street, framing the views of both Cathedrals.

On the internal faces of the sculpture the viewer stands in front of life size portraits of Archbishop Worlock and Bishop Sheppard. The figures are touchable and through their gesture and stance establish a dialogue with the viewer. The external faces of the doors present stories and events of their lives in low-relief.



## Giles Penny

Gallery work by Giles Penny

