

Sharing our skills and knowledge...

Courses, training, work experience, demonstrations and events

Castle Fine Arts has developed a range of opportunities to help more people get involved in this fascinating process. Our introduction to bronze casting courses are growing ever popular and this year we will be running even more in a variety of forms.

Last year we held two courses at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park as part of their education programme. Demand is such that this year we are adding an extra one. It's a hands on course designed to give an insight into the ceramic shell process and the workings of the art foundry. Limited to twelve places the course runs over five consecutive days during which time each student creates in wax, casts and finishes two bronzes of their very own. Please contact YSP for more details www.ysp.co.uk

Working with sculptor Carol Peace and we will be running a similar course at the Bristol Drawing School in July. Details can be found at www.bristoldrawingschool.org.uk

We set up a project with Telford College of Art and Technology, giving thirteen students to chance to each make a bronze. All the pieces formed component parts of a wall relief to be displayed in the college.

"The Foundation Degree students in Art and Design have currently been working on a sculpture project with Castle Fine Arts bronze casting foundry in Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant near Oswestry. Castle Fine Arts won Best British Business last year and this has given the students the opportunity to work alongside an art based business on a live site specific project. The students have had workshops in the bronze casting process here and at the college with Managing Director Chris Butler who helped them see and experience this fine art process. The students have been working as a collective to create and produce a bronze sculpture to be displayed in the reception of Telford college of Arts and Technology." Simon Wilkes, Telford College of Arts & Technology

In addition to the many people who have been visiting the foundry as part of our work experience programme, our continuing relationship with the University of Burgos in northern Spain has resulted in two more students spending three months at the foundry to learn the process and improve their language skills...and ours!

If you would like spend time with us on work experience or to find out more about our courses and events check out the website or give us a call.



Casting demonstration at Eden Project



YSP Course participants with "Crawling Hare" by Sophie Ryder, cast by Castle Fine Arts

Free Wax... and your first bronze... finished for £95!

For sometime now we have been encouraging people to have a go at creating a bronze sculpture with our FREE WAX offer. Its a great way to learn about the lost wax process and to access our services at no cost. You can also join our mailing list to receive Crucible, the foundry newsletter and information on projects, events, courses and offers.

Many of you have contacted the foundry and have received your block of wax and instruction leaflet. The next stage, committing your sculpture into bronze, can be more daunting - and complicated. We are now extending this offer by making it a lot simpler and clearer to turn that wax into bronze.

No need to send a picture for a costing. Simply return your wax to the foundry by post or in person and as a special introductory offer we will cast the wax into bronze for £95 plus VAT and return postage. Price includes casting, finishing and basic patina (brown, black or green) and wax finish.

Visit the www.bronzefoundry.co.uk to take advantage of this introductory offer or to find out more.

Find out more...

Crucible is published twice a year. If you are not already on our mailing list, please contact us: t. 01691 780 261, f. 01691 780 011, e. info@bronzefoundry.co.uk or complete and return the slip below

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Foundry Sponsors National Sculpture Prize

The Broomhill Art & Sculpture Foundation launched a brand new national sculpture competition at the end of 2009, set to provide an exciting challenge for new and emerging UK based artists. With a prize fund of £15,000, the Foundation was delighted with the number of entries and quality of work, attracting fifty budding sculptors to take on the unique, creative challenge.

The judges, including Robert Bradford, Sandy Brown, Giles Penny, Peter Randall-Page, Mike Roles and Broomhill owners Rinus & Aniet van de Sande, gathered at Broomhill in February, to deliberate, narrowing the fifty proposed sculptural ideas down to the final ten. The task was a challenge, but after a day of discussion and heated debate, the final ideas were chosen. The ten finalists, who hail from all parts of the UK, include Angela Read, Charlie Hawkins, Claudia Borgna, David Booth, David Pratt, Dawn van Gerven, Doug Burton, Glynn Griffiths, Rob Johnsey and Sally Underwood. Each finalist will receive £1,000 to turn their proposed idea into an inspiring, celebrated finished piece, ready to be unveiled at the final outdoor exhibition at Broomhill, beginning June 2010, as part of the North Devon Festival celebrations.

"The final ten sculptural ideas each have a unique approach with a variety of material uses and concepts, including some which are interactive. This, and of course the public's involvement in choosing a winner, will ensure that the exhibition in June will be the most exciting we've had yet! Of course we wouldn't be able to attract the calibre of artists we have, if it wasn't for the generous support of our sponsors, Brau Leino, Parker Hannifin, Proof Magazine, North Devon Festival and Castle Fine Arts Foundry who have helped to financially back the venture."

Rinus van de Sande, Broomhill

No.10 for Two

In recognition of our award of British Small Business Champions, CFA directors were invited to attend a function at 10 Downing Street. A proud moment in our 20th year!



Chris Butler and Chris Jones with Lord Mandelson

National Champion 2008

Castle Fine Arts Foundry
bronze casting for sculptors

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crucible



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Castle Fine Arts Foundry
bronze casting for sculptors

Issue 9

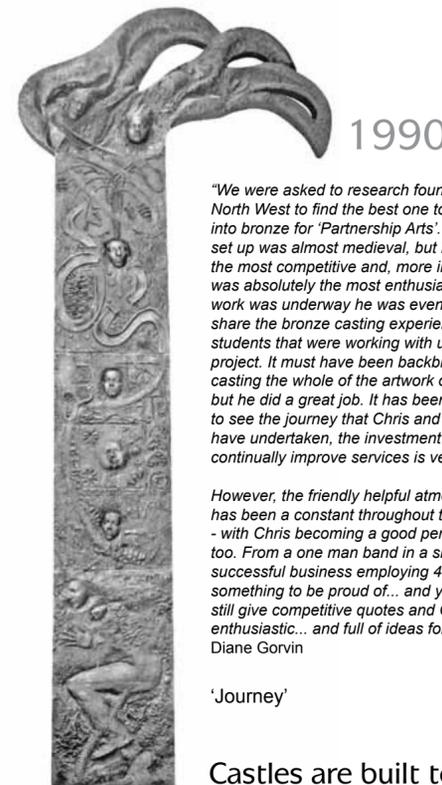
National Champion 2008



from small beginnings...

Foundry celebrates 20 years

In 1990, Castle Fine Arts Foundry began casting sculptures in a small shed in the grounds of Chirk Castle with the aim of helping sculptors capture their work in bronze. Our first major commission was cast there and still stands outside Manchester's Picadilly station. Amazingly, the artists Phil Bews and Diane Gorvin, put their trust in a brand new inexperienced foundry. They have been customers and friends ever since. After one year, we needed more space and moved from the castle to new premises... but the name remained.



1990

"We were asked to research foundries in the North West to find the best one to cast 'Journey' into bronze for 'Partnership Arts'. Chris Butler's set up was almost medieval, but his quote was the most competitive and, more importantly, he was absolutely the most enthusiastic. When work was underway he was even willing to share the bronze casting experience with the students that were working with us on the project. It must have been backbreaking work casting the whole of the artwork on his own, but he did a great job. It has been fascinating to see the journey that Chris and the foundry have undertaken, the investment in change to continually improve services is very impressive."

However, the friendly helpful atmosphere has been a constant throughout the years - with Chris becoming a good personal friend too. From a one man band in a shed, to a successful business employing 40 staff is something to be proud of... and yes, Castle still give competitive quotes and Chris is still enthusiastic... and full of ideas for the future." Diane Gorvin

'Journey'

Castles are built to last...

Twenty years on and thousands of castings later we are proud to be working with hundreds of artists as one of the leading art foundries in the country.

On June 26th we will be hosting an open day and party at Llanrhaeadr to celebrate this landmark for the company and as a thank you to the many people who have made it possible - employees, artists, suppliers and supporters of our work.

It has been a journey that has seen the business grow to a team of more than forty people based in four locations. We have developed the skills and facility to take on the largest and most challenging projects. However, our aim is as clear now as it was all those years ago, to use our knowledge and experience to provide the best service to everyone we work with. In 2008 this was recognised when we honoured to receive the prestigious Small Business Champion of Britain Award from the Federation of Small Businesses.



Horse at Water, by Nic Fiddian Green

Who knows what the future holds? We can look back on some great moments and be proud of our achievements over the last twenty years.

In 2006 we worked with Ian Rank Broadly, scaling up and casting the new Armed Forces Memorial which honoured the servicemen and women who have died in action since WW2. For over a year Ian worked in our Stroud studio. The Memorial was one of the most prestigious and high profile commissions for years and was unveiled by the Queen herself.

Ian commented, "Castle can be depended on to deliver, even when the pressure to meet the deadline seems overwhelming. I am sure no other foundry could have cast the sculpture for the Armed Forces Memorial in time and to the required standard."

We all went on a day out to the site with Ian to see the results of our efforts. It was one of those wonderful moments when all the hard work and effort has come together and we can proudly say "we did it". An ex-serviceman who was visiting the site that day came to talk to us. He had lost comrades in conflict. With tears in his eyes he thanked us for our efforts. Honouring his friends truly connected our work to the outside world in a powerful way.

The strength of Castle Fine Arts however, comes from looking forward to new challenges. To continue to evolve our business, to develop our staff and our process and working with all the artists on the exciting projects that lie ahead. It is with the greatest respect and appreciation that we thank everyone whose support has helped get this far and will help us achieve more success on the journey ahead.



2010

"What a delight it is to work with such an efficient and professional foundry" Gerry Farrell, Sladmore Gallery

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Some recent projects

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Free wax

review

GHOST TIGER

"I was very happy with the amount time and careful work Castle Fine Arts did for me on my Ghost Tiger. They took great care on the wax and the patination was just superb! Thank you Castle Fine Arts for a super job!"

Laura Lian, Sculptor



Heavy Horse Magazine / Diana Zauner

WAITING...

He is a typical dock horse, 'Waiting...' for his next load. He has waited for 250 plus years of working on the docks for his place in Liverpool history. The site is at Hartley Quays on Mann Island in The Albert Dock, looking up towards the new Liverpool Life Museum which will be open next year, across the bridge from the Tate Liverpool.

Judy Boyt, Sculptor

ANDEAN CONDOR

"I very rarely accept commissions and the Condor, like most of my work, was simply created on spec. The two castings are at my gallery here and at the Sladmore Contemporary in London. I had for some years postponed having my sculpture cast in silicon bronze because of the opinions expressed by others warning me of its disadvantages i.e. It is a harder metal to chase than conventional bronze and would not accept patinas as readily. I was relieved and indeed delighted to view the completed bronze of the Andean Condor. The finish is pristine and the colour rich and deep. I have since had other works cast by Castle in silicon bronze and they are all of such a quality."

Geoffrey Dashwood, Sculptor



CHINESE WHISPERS VII

One of a series of wall mounted bronzes cast from Nigel's original birchwood sculptures.

Nigel Hall, Sculptor



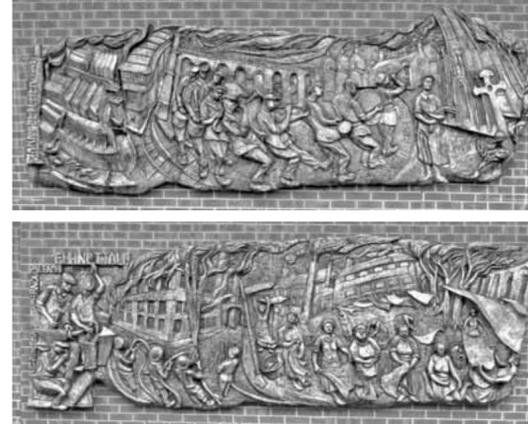
HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Commissioned for the new Supreme Court, Parliament Square. Recently the piece also won the Olin-Stones Prize for Relief Sculpture at the annual exhibition of the Society of Portrait Sculptors.

Ian Rank Broadly, Sculptor

"THE GREATEST"

The Ali Centre in Louisville, USA is a fantastic cultural attraction and international education facility that is set to become as iconic and significant as the great man whose legacy and life's work it represents. "Castle Fine Arts are proud to have become a key part in a UK initiative to work with The Ali Centre in creating a new gigantic bronze statue entrance. A maquette has been approved and casts have already been bought by key patrons including a special one off coloured version chosen by Ali personally which he has taken back and displays in his home in Kentucky" For 2010, plans are to scale the maquette firstly to one and a half times lifesize and then to a heroic 24ft at Castle's workshops with artist Andy Edwards. Visitors to The Ali Centre will eventually be able to walk through the legs of the colossus which is set to become a world landmark, befitting the stature of a remarkable man held in the highest esteem throughout the world and truly deserving of the title The Greatest.



MORRISON'S PANEL

Commissioned by Morrison's Supermarkets, for their new superstore in Whitefield, Greater Manchester. "Ten years ago I was looking for someone to make a mould for a small job I was having some problems with. I was recommended to Castle Fine Arts Foundry. They were quite small then, but I was impressed by the friendly atmosphere and 'nothing is too much trouble' approach. It took ten years but I knew exactly the foundry I wanted to work with on this prestigious commission and my expectations have been exceeded on all counts."

Steve des Landes, Sculptor



MAMMOTH

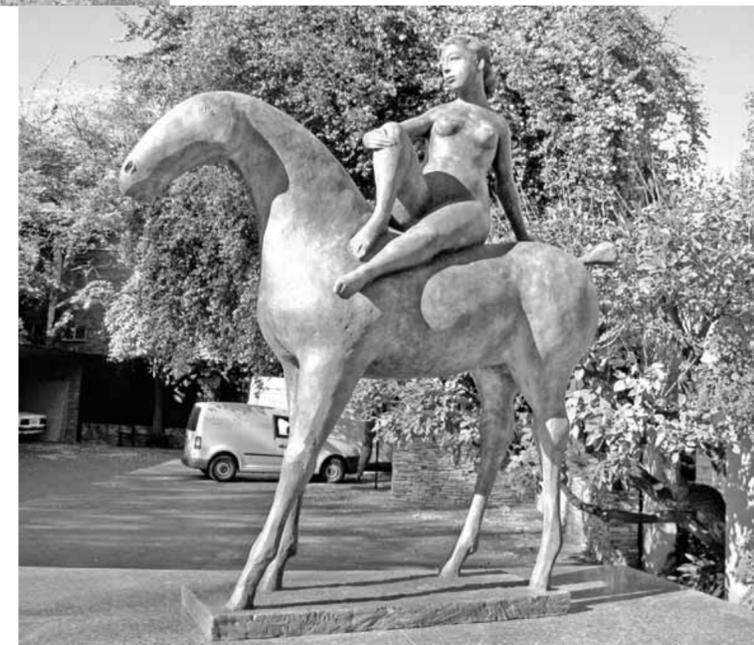
"The opportunity to make use of Castle's scaling up service at the Oswestry workshops has been wonderful and fantastic. Never previously had I worked on this scale and without the support of the foundry I would have found the task a daunting one. However, the service enabled me to make a 'mammoth' sculpture that was dynamic and, in every way, my own."

Marjan Wouda, Sculptor

AMAZON RESTING

"I was recommended the Castle Foundry by a fellow sculptor who also had work enlarged there. It has been a new and interesting process for me working on such a large scale for the first time and viewing what was a familiar sculpture in a totally different light. I was surprised at just how much the scale affected what I thought about some forms and how it changed the relationship between the figure and the horse. Certain things which worked well on the original smaller piece needed modifying on a larger scale. I think a certain lightness and spontaneity was lost but it gained another different presence in its monumental size. I hope I will have the opportunity to work on this scale again in the future"

Olivia Musgrave, Sculptor



DR. JOHNSON

"I refute it thus" describes the legendary famous incident when Dr. Samuel Johnson, leaving Church in the company of Boswell, kicked a rock. "I was given specific instructions to create an exaggerated kick, and to show his scream of pain; this also provided the opportunity to show the anger and frustration that ran through this eccentric character's life. At the requested size of one eighth over-life, the technicalities involved turned out to be very demanding, with over 600 kilos of clay supported on one leg. For many hours I was lying on my back working on the underside details beneath the large 'umbrella' created by the frock coat. This was my first experience with Castle, and naturally I was very concerned when it came to the mould making in my studio that the shape or detail might be lost. However, my doubts were quickly dispelled. I was very impressed with the speed and precision of Castle's technique. The large wax was true to form and easy to work on. Both works at Tanat and Stroud were clean and spacious. I spend a lot of time in foundries and it is always nice to know you are going to receive a warm welcome on arrival. All the Castle staff were very friendly and co-operative and because of the travelling distance I was able to use the Stroud works. I was delighted with the end result and I have heard from my client that he is very happy."

William Fawke, Sculptor

