

Chris Johns Sculpture

Contemporary Metal Arts

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CURRICULUM VITAE

I am an artist working primarily in metal sculpture, particularly site specific public art. One of my biggest strengths is the depth and breadth of technical and practical knowledge afforded by my experience in engineering, industry and hands-on studio practice. This gives me the technical, project management and leadership skills and flexibility to produce work which delivers high quality and value for money on time and in budget.

I also have considerable experience of working on community focused projects in partnership with schools, museums and other educational organisations.

References

Details of referees available on request.

Portfolio

Available on my website www.ChrisJohnsSculpture.co.uk

Education

2008 Birmingham School of Art, BA (Hons)

Fine Art Degree

2005 Warwickshire College,

Foundation Art and Design

2002 University of Birmingham, BEng (Hons)

Mechanical Engineering Degree

A-Levels (1998) : Physics A, Biology A, General Studies A, Maths B, Chemistry B

S-Levels (1998) : Biology 1, Physics 3,

Professional Bodies

Association of British Iron Casting Artists: I currently sit in the committee as Technical Publications Editor.

Technical Skills

- Welding and fabrication : MMA, MIG, oxy/fuel and TIG welding
- Engineering design of safe, secure and practical installations
- Project management, logistics and leadership, integrating technical and creative disciplines
- Mould-making and casting, including iron and cold-casting processes
- Technical and concept drawing including 3D design software
- Traditional metalworking techniques
- Broad technical and scientific knowledge outside of my own specialisms
- Extensive experience of community and education projects including work with schools,

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universities and museums in the UK and internationally.

Awards

July 2008 Graduate bursary from the Ironbridge Museum of Steel Sculpture

January 2007 UK National Runner up in *2007 Noilly Prat Prix de la Sculpture*, exhibited at the London Art Fair.

July 2007 Winner of the Nether Hall Park Sculpture Competition sponsored by Bovis Homes.

Major Public Art Projects

Hayes Boatyard, Milton Keynes (2014)

Commissioned by Milton Keynes Council and Stony Stratford Futures Group to design and build a series of large public sculptures for a new housing development on the site of a 19th century boatyard. The installation of 7 permanent sculptures is designed to reflect the materials and processes used by the historic boatyard.

Industry to Art (Summer 2014)

A collaborative project with the STEAM Museum in Swindon and the Bullpen Arts Foundry, using both traditional and experimental iron casting processes to create original contemporary artworks in response to the museum's collection. I acted as Mould Captain for the foundry workshop and exhibited several of my sculptures at the museum. This project was featured on BBC Arts.

Coalbrookdale Museum of Steel Sculpture (Dec – Jan 1013/14)

Dis-assembly, preparation and packing of a number of large sculptures by various artists for export to the United States.

Woodlands Primary School. (Summer 2013)

Design and fabrication of a large steel sculpture inspired by Coalbrookdale's iconic Iron Bridge including creative plaster casting and wax carving workshops with pupils.

Golden Hillock School, Birmingham (July-August 2012)

Following the sudden death of a member of staff I was commissioned to create permanent sculpture as the focal point of the school's memorial garden. The design and development process involved working closely with staff and pupils through practical workshops and discussions.

Blists Hill Museum, Iron Pour (August 2012)

Mould Captain for a public demonstration of iron casting, hosted by the museum and the AGM of the British Artist Blacksmith Association.

Lightmoor Village Sculpture (December 2011 - January 2012)

I was hired by sculptor James Wade Jr of Kentucky University as a technical consultant for the casting and installation of a large (over 600kg) cast iron public sculpture project for the Bournville Village Trust's Lightmoor Village development.

Woodlands Primary School, Phase 1 (2011-12)

This project involved working closely with staff and pupils to create a series of sculptures which would use the theme of 'woodland' to create a sense of identity and community for a brand new complex of school buildings. I designed and fabricated a series of sculptural steel wall panels mounted around the main entrance to the school, based on British native trees.

Newdale Primary School (Summer 2010)

This project was based around a series of workshops and activities with pupils which formed part of a school-wide project on the theme of lizards running throughout the year. Activities included classroom discussions, drawing workshops and a sculpture park visit. The final work, a series of 7 steel lizards, was closely based on ideas taken from drawings produced by pupils

Mould-Line /Foundry Supervisor – Residency at Gdańsk Fine Art Academy, Poland (2008 and 2009)

As foundry supervisor I was responsible for assisting visiting professional artists and students in creating their own cast iron sculptures as well as instructing them in new techniques. I was responsible for training and supervising the pour crews on the foundry floor, ensuring quality of the castings and safety of the crew and spectators. This role also included detailed estimates of material requirements and planning the sequence of the pour, a high pressure and technically demanding job reporting directly to the foundry master. I worked alongside students, professors and practising artists from Poland, Latvia and the USA.

Museum of Steel Sculpture Residency (July 2009)

I have worked closely with the museum since 2008 on several large projects and was invited to join the resident foundry crew for the annual cast iron sculpture workshops hosted by the museum in 2009. I provided engineering advice to the visiting artists. The 4 week workshop was an opportunity for invited artists from the UK and USA to produce large scale work for a special exhibition held at the nearby Museum of Iron, the site of Abraham Darby's historic iron furnace, where we also carried out a public demonstration of iron casting over two days, as part of the Darby 300 festival.

International Festival of High Temperatures – Wrocław, Poland (May 2009)

I was invited to represent the UK at this event as a visiting artist. During the two week workshop I produced a large cast iron sculpture *Aniol* which I poured as part of a public demonstration at the climax of the festival.