

Hands On Sculpture Training



Making sculpture is about ideas and materials. At the foundry our job is to turn your ideas into bronze by taking care of all the technical requirements, but we have always encouraged artists to get involved with the process. Learning more about the casting process can benefit your work by saving you time and money. We are developing a series of training workshops to do just that.

In July and August we got together with David Reid to run his well-established five-day foundry course. The first was held at Berllanderri Sculpture Workshop and the second at the foundry in Llanrhaeadr. The response was excellent. The course covers the ceramic shell process from wax to casting and patination with everyone getting to cast and finish two bronzes. It's a great introduction to bronze casting. David shows how to build your own simple foundry quickly and easily so you could cast bronze in your own studio. In David's hands the process is demystified without losing the magic.

Tim Rawlins attended the course at Berllanderri in July

"The bronze casting course was a complete revelation for me and will undoubtedly change the course of my work in the future. Not only can I now work freely and at low cost making small-scale experimental bronzes in my studio, I have also learnt how to finish and patinate my work and how to work directly in wax. The course is simple, comprehensive and great fun, I would recommend it to everybody."

For more information about David Reid visit davidreid@c2i.net

Thanks to all who attended and to Harvey Hood for accommodating us at Berllanderri.

Next year we are planning a series of courses at different locations covering a range of sculpture making processes including mould making, casting and patination to photographing and presentation of finished work. Details will be published in the spring and check out the website www.sculpture.gb.com for more details.

Website News

Sculpture.gb.com has arrived!

The new way for you to keep up to date with Castle Fine Arts is sculpture.gb.com, which will be updated every month with news articles about the foundry and the artists.

It complements our newsletter so don't worry, you won't be reading the same information twice!

We will be developing the site as a useful resource, which you can visit to gain essential information about our processes, the foundry, artists and useful contacts.

Already our Useful Links page has many interesting and beneficial sites for you to view, including other artists sites, artist suppliers and many other people who could help you.

You can contact us quickly and easily through the site and are guaranteed a reply within 24 hours.

The site is there for you and we welcome any feedback. We are developing the site further and would like to add a list of forthcoming events. Please use this opportunity to advertise your upcoming exhibitions or unveilings of work.

If you have an exhibition or exciting event you would like us to advertise on the website please contact the foundry or e-mail details to us.

Find out more...

'Crucible' is published twice a year. If you're 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.

Name _____

Occupation _____

Company name (if applicable) _____

Address: _____

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October 05

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS...

SCULPTOR GALLERY FOUNDRY...

Working together

Casting your work in bronze is a big outlay for any sculptor. The process is expensive. Commissioned or reordered work is paid for by the sale. To cast work speculatively to stand in a gallery however, is risky and the cost may well be prohibitive. Your money is tied up in work that may take a long time to sell. But to sell the work you need it out there!

We've teamed up with Broomhill Sculpture Park and a group of young but established sculptors to cast, exhibit and promote their work. By funding the casting costs we can help to create more opportunities to show their work in bronze and sell more sculpture.

Rinus van de Sande who founded and runs Broomhill with his wife Aniet tells us more....

Contemporary Bronze Sculpture on the Lawn

The English painter Claire Burke introduced us to the West Country in 1992, after she finished a summer period, of caring for our new-born son Bob and painting in our artist studio, part of our galleries Kunst kijkhuis Koestraat. We liked the idea of introducing sculpture into our exhibitions but needed a place with an appropriate sized garden. Holland was not an option as so many galleries and sculpture gardens already existed.

We decided to concentrate on North Devon as we had fallen in love with its vast landscape and beautiful coastal scenery. In 1996 we bought Broomhill house and 10 acres, then a run down hotel just outside of Barnstaple in the centre of North Devon This was the starting point of Broomhill Art Hotel, now a well-established sculpture park with an interesting collection and exhibition program of international contemporary sculpture.

Broomhill and Castle Fine Arts Foundries are developing a new program to promote a group of young sculptors; work will be cast in bronze and exhibited at Broomhill Sculpture Park in the newly designed garden for domestic contemporary bronze sculpture.

For more information visit www.broomhillart.co.uk

We would like to welcome you in the near future at Broomhill.

Rinus and Aniet van de Sande

Watch this space for new and exciting developments!

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 Design 07940 916759

crucible

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CASTLE FINE ARTS
foundry

October 2005

Your Sculpture in Safe Hands

Working together - works!

From concept to completion let us be part of your team.

It was a passion for bronze casting that started Castle Fine Arts and casting sculpture is at the heart of our business. An ever-growing number of sculptors are bringing their work to the foundry to capture their ideas in bronze, often creating new and exciting challenges for us.

With the wealth of experience gained from the diversity of projects we have undertaken, can help you with more than just your casting. In fact, we believe in offering as much support as we can to all the artists we work with. Our success depends on yours.

Every sculpture project is unique. Castle Fine Arts have worked closely with artists for fifteen years to create dozens of commissions in bronze - taking care of everything from scaling up and on site moulding to installation and if required full project management. Make us part of your team and all technical and practical experience is available to you from the very first step.

Increasing your chances of success.

Applying for a commission? When it comes to preparing your proposal why not contact us for free advice on all the technicalities of producing your work in bronze? We have the answers to the questions clients may ask - leaving you free to concentrate on all the creative aspects.

The procedures for commissioning sculpture take many forms and working together from the start can really increase your chances of winning the commission. It could be selected by committee, individual or public vote. Often it's a new experience for those responsible for selecting the work. The artwork is the most important thing but they may also have technical concerns. With the profile a new public artwork creates they need to be confident that nothing will go wrong. We have a track record of producing many successful public art projects - on time and on budget. The sculptor and the foundry are a team and demonstrating this goes a long way to reassure a client.

The sculpture is going to stand there for a long time and we all want to be proud of our achievements.

We can support your proposal in many ways. You may be unsure if the work can be created within the available funding. Run your ideas past us and we can give an honest and unbiased idea of the cost. We can show you what's possible and how to get the most from the budget.

Let your client experience first hand the work involved in casting a large sculpture by offering them the opportunity to visit the foundry.

As part of the support we offer sculptors we can attend a presentation meeting with you free of charge as part of your team. It's your work and your ideas but we can be there to support you and provide immediate answers to any technical concerns the client may have.



'Transition' by Ian Randall in Blackburn.

It's not only sculptors who are benefiting from our experience in the public art field.

Creating a new piece of public sculpture is often a unique event and we can work with the clients from the start. When Wolverhampton University decided to commission a sculpture they asked us to help by bringing our experience to their project - even before the artist or the work was selected.

Castle Fine Arts are involved in managing the commission which will stand outside the new library buildings. We will be working closely with the selected artist and the client to cast the bronze and ensure everything goes to plan.

The vice-chancellor of the University visited the foundry to discuss his ideas for the work and was confident in our abilities after seeing first hand our facilities for producing large bronzes.

To find out more about the support we offer and ways we may be able to help you please contact the foundry. We are always available to discuss your ideas and future plans.

Please contact us at the foundry or e-mail us at: castlefinearts@btconnect.com.

Sculptor Ian Randall creates large and complex public artworks. He has this to say about his experiences working closely with Castle Fine Arts ...

"No matter what your skills or experience, clients are often nervous about dealing directly with an artist generally because of their own inexperience of commissioning artworks and working with artists.

"Working alongside an organisation like Castle Fine Arts can help increase a client's confidence in a project especially at the tender stage where the client is looking for assurances.

"Allowing them to be involved in the project management of a commission also inevitably removes some of the stress and worry for the artist as two heads around a creative idea can help create realistic and practical solutions to complex logistics".

Ian Randall

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Want to Learn More?



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Ridgeway Sculpture Design

Two years ago we took the step of opening a second workshop in Stroud. It has brought our business much closer to our customers who live in the south west as well as offering a choice of foundries to other sculptors in the area.

Now we are able to make our services accessible to even more sculptors by linking up with Wendover-based Ridgeway Sculpture Design. Only an hour's drive from central London, sculptors can bring work to the studio for moulding, check or work on your waxes in a wonderfully creative environment.

Ridgeway are very experienced mould makers and for larger work can work in your studio.

For over 15 years, Andrew Sinclair, founder of Ridgeway, has been passionately involved with most aspects of sculpture. Andy's studio has earned a reputation for excellence, which he puts down to its customer-focused philosophy of applying sensitivity in the understanding of the client's needs. This has become a hallmark of the studios work ethic and has resulted in the expansion of services available to Ridgeway's client's - a list that includes many prominent sculptors and patrons of the Arts.

Listening to his customers has played a fundamental role in the recent association between Ridgeway and Castle.

Asked about this Andy said, *"Although a lot of our commercial work is resin-based, many of our personal clients want quality bronze castings. We felt that if we could take our mould making service one step further, by offering a facility to produce waxes, we could assist in overseeing the entire process. By developing a strong working relationship with the Castle Foundry we feel we are giving our clients the finest results from start to finish."*

Castle and Ridgeway share a common business philosophy in wanting to give customers the best support we can. The care and attention that owner Andy Sinclair brings to the many projects he has completed over the years is now available to you when it comes to casting bronze.

Being involved with Ridgeway has added another dimension to Castle Fine Arts as well as another location.

To find out more, to arrange a visit or quotation please contact Andy on 01296 620099 or by e-mail andy@ridgewaysculpture.com



talk
talk



At Home in Wales

Last year a sculpture was commissioned by the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society to mark their centenary. The lifesize bronze Shepherd, Ram and Collie was created by sculptor Chris Kelly.

The sculpture is a celebration of the Welsh farming community. The village of Llanrhaeadr, where the foundry is located, is a typical farming village. There was once a thriving sheep market which has unfortunately disappeared.

We wanted to make a gift of a sculpture to the village and a cast of the Welsh Mountain Ram was the perfect subject. It was the shortest journey one of our bronzes has made!

The official unveiling of the sculpture took place in Llanrhaeadr on Saturday 7th May 2005. Many of the local community braved the chilly weather and joined us in welcoming the new edition to the village green.



Top from left to right: Chris Kelly, Artist and E Thomas Morris, Chairman, Llanrhaeadr ex Denbighshire Community Council.

Bottom from left to right: Chris Butler, Director castle Fine Arts and John L Evans Chairman, Llanrhaeadr Mont Community Council.



Sandra working at the foundry

Free Wax

You may remember in the previous edition of 'Crucible' we were running an offer of Free Wax. We've had a great response with over 40 people ordering their **free** sample!

The feedback we have had so far has been very good; for many people this is the first time they have modelled wax and they have enjoyed the challenge of working with a new material. Some have enjoyed working with the wax so much, that the sample amount just wasn't enough for their project!

Anthony Slessor took advantage of the offer and had his work cast. He even let his son experiment and we also cast his son's work:

"It was an excellent kick-start to get me back to sculpting and a great introduction for my son. It is wonderful for a young person to be able to make something with the wax and then actually enjoy the magic of process and transformation, as most of us have to wait for Art School before having access to a foundry."

"Your project allowing small pieces to piggyback on larger works is an imaginative and generous way to make this medium available to those of us who otherwise would find ourselves constrained by expense"

If you would like to take advantage of this offer please contact us by e-mail on castlefinearts@btconnect.com with your address details and we will send you a block straight away.

We do also sell 1kg blocks of wax for only £2 each, just give us a call and we can send out the extra blocks on the same day.

Foundry Amiga

At Castle Fine Arts we always welcome work placements, but we don't restrict this to the UK alone. We recently offered a placement to Sandra Nuin left from Pamplona in Spain. Take a look at her story about working in the foundry.

"After studying sculpture in the art school of Pamplona, I received a grant to work for three months in the U.K. The organisation who work between the government in Navarra and Wales based in Llangollen, looked for somewhere I could do my work placement. So until the last minute I had no idea where I would be working.

"A schoolmate spoke to me about a fantastic foundry in Wales, he had visited the UK and the foundry a year before with the same grant. When I knew where I would be going I was happy to know that it was going to be at Castle Fine Arts.

"Since the beginning I felt comfortable there, and something good was in the atmosphere, the people, the place... the tea or the "biscuits"!

"Paul Dalton told me in my first days: "with no stress, Sandra", explaining to me kindly how to do it. I think that's how they gain such good results. Everybody is working happily, they are the kindest people I have known and I didn't feel alone at any moment.

"The village of Llanrhaeadr and the people that live there are also fantastic.

"When my three months had finished, Chris Butler offered for me to come back! It was quite hard to think about it, because at that moment I was looking forward to seeing my friends and family in Spain. But I said "yes" because I knew that it would be great. I was really glad that I said "yes".

"I then continued to work for another five months at the foundry. I learnt much more about the bronze casting process, enjoying the opportunity to work on such a good job, Chris Kelly's Spirit of Barrow, and the Fine Lady riding to Banbury Cross. I even cast some figures of my own.

"I could share more time with all of the staff and have a good friendship. I consider myself so lucky to have been there. I had to go back to Spain because I start a fine arts course at University, but something in me is still there."

The Italian Job

The Venice Biennale is one of the art world's great events and Castle Fine Arts recently had the chance to be involved by providing the transport for the artworks of Wales to Venice.

Chris Butler and Paul Dalton drove to Venice and with the help of Italian sculptor and good friend Mirko Zeni delivered the work to the Welsh pavilion. In Venice nothing is simple, but having to load the work on to a barge at the port and enter the city via a canal, sitting on packing crates, makes it a unique adventure.

The show runs until November when we will making the return trip.

"I am delighted that Castle Fine Arts sponsored the transport of the artworks for Wales at the Venice Biennale of Art 2005. As always Castle Fine Arts was totally professional in the work that it undertook for us. It has been a real pleasure working with the team at Castle Fine Arts and we look forward to working with Castle Fine Arts again in the future."

Michael Nixon, Commissioner for Wales, Venice Biennale for Art



Laura Ford's sculpture show in Venice.

The Spirit of Barrow

The ships launched from the yards of Barrow have sailed to the corners of the globe and with them have travelled the skills and energy of the men and women that built them. A recently completed commission created by Chris Kelly now stands in the centre of the town as a celebration of these people.

The four monumental figures depict the changing times both in the industry and the world. The hammer swinging riveter from the 1920s. The fitter from the war years when Barrow played a massive part in the war effort. The 1960s welder whose skills changed the whole shipbuilding process. And the modern apprentice striding out to the future.

The sculpture was commissioned by Barrow Borough Council and built in collaboration with BAE Systems, the owners of the shipyards, who fabricated the large stainless steel base. It was exciting for a small firm like us to work with a company with the facility to build giant ships!

Joe Sides, Manager at BAE, talks about their involvement.

"For many years the Shipyard employees in Barrow have been actively involved in community development projects. BAE Systems were delighted to help Barrow Borough Council, when they asked for assistance in the development of a statue which would commemorate the shipbuilding industry and the changes through the generations."

Employees involved in the design and build of the plinth were determined to deliver a high quality product



knowing that this was to be centre stage in our town centre, highlighting the pride we all have in our town's heritage.

"When choosing the models which would represent the changing face of our industry, we were proud to offer this unique and exciting opportunity to a young lady apprentice, Gemma Halshaw who epitomises women craftsmen who have worked in this industry for the past 30 years."

"Being involved in the final build and unveiling to the public of such a symbolic piece of art was a proud moment for all involved. For not just the work itself but for what this statue stands for; and that's how our employees and business have helped shape Barrow and the community"

The people of Barrow are rightly proud of their industrial heritage and have taken the monument to their hearts as a fitting tribute to the shipbuilding traditions of the town.

Banbury Cross

People all over the world have heard of Banbury due to the famous poem, now the Lady on a White Horse stands on the famous Banbury Cross.

The creators of the work are Carl Payne, Andy Edwards and Julian Jefferies, collectively known as ArtCycle.

It was unveiled by Princess Anne on 27th April 2005 and caused great excitement in the town.

"Castle Fine Arts is undoubtedly the standard for any bronze public artwork, peerless certainly to us, inevitably by many more yet to discover you and was indeed remarked on by many of the dignitaries attending the unveiling, including The Princess Royal herself."

Andy Edwards, Carl Payne and Julian Jefferies - Artcycle Ltd - Banbury Horse.

