

Discover Oxford's Public Art

map of oxford's outdoor art

The City of Oxford is full of cultural jewels, offering world-renowned art galleries, museums and theatres as well as a rich heritage of breathtaking architecture, all contained within easy reach of the visiting public.

As part of Oxford City Council's commitment to developing and promoting the built environment and enhancing the city centre, public art work is highly regarded and often becomes integral to a new housing development, hospital, community park or leisure centre.

Within this leaflet you will find just some of the many individual, quirky pieces dotted in and around the city for everyone to enjoy.

Designed to guide the visitor around some of the less obvious parts of Oxford, the map is a celebration of new and innovative art works within the public realm – it is our outdoor art gallery and one we hope you will enjoy again and again.

* Please note some of the works featured have limited access and may be subject to a small charge. These are asterisked inside.

For further information and leaflets about guided walks and tours of Oxford please visit:

The Tourist Information Centre
15-16 Broad Street
Oxford
Opening hours
Monday to Saturday 09:30 to 17:00
Sundays and Public Holidays 10:00 to 16:00

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1. 'Books', by Diana Bell, Bonn Square, 2009

The books are cast in bronze from real books. 'The sculpture was a gift to Oxford from the city of Bonn to commemorate 60 years of twinning. The books are inscribed with the words Knowledge, Understanding, Friendship, Trust (Wissen, Verständigung, Freundschaft, Vertrauen). The book theme continues on selected benches in the square.



2. Inspire, by Alan Wilson, Oxford Castle, 2006

Commissioned by Trevor Osborne Partnership, this sculpture references ancient obelisks and their relationship with the arc of the sun. The overall shape reflects the huge ancient window on one side of the square while the mix of bronze and stainless steel pays homage to the ancient and modern buildings that make up the space.



3. Grilles and Railings, by Jon Mills, Woodins Way, 2009

Artist Jon Mills created gateway features, name plates and decorative car park grilles to celebrate the unique location of the housing development, where nature meets the urban landscape.



4. 'Another Time XI', by Anthony Gormley, roof of Exeter College, Turl/Broad Street, 2009

Donated to the College, the instantly recognizable 2 1/2 metre tall figure of a man stands majestically on the roof of the Thomas Wood Building on the corner of Broad Street and Turl Street.



5. Modern Gargoyles, Alec Peever, Bodleian Library, 2009

Young people from Oxford worked with local stone carver, Alec Peever, on the theme of Myths and Monsters to create new gargoyles for the Bodleian Library. nine winners were selected from the competition and their designs were translated into stone and installed in the historic heart of Oxford.



6. 'Salt Bridges', Bio Chemistry Laboratory, Parks Road, 2007 *

As a title for a series of art works *Salt Bridges* refers literally to a fragment of biochemistry. The works include a chandelier of coloured glass birds, a wall with changing coloured lights and patterned glasswork in the main courtyard area.



7. 'Y', by Mark Wallinger, Magdalen College, Bat Willow Meadow, 2008 *

This sculpture was commissioned to celebrate the 550th anniversary of Magdalen College. The piece symbolises the branches of Magdalen College's ancestral tree or the antlers of the famous College deer.



8. The Ox, by Olivia Musgrave, Oxford Train Station, 2001

The Ox has long been the symbol of Oxford, and this prominent sculpture greets visitors as they arrive in the city from the railway station. The sculpture stands over 3 meters high and was commissioned by the Sa d Business School in 2001 to celebrate the opening of the building.



9. Flight of the Eagles, by Jon Mills, Waterways, (Old Lucy Ironworks), 2008

Artist and Blacksmith, Jon Mills was commissioned to create the 4 ½ meter high cladding for the ventilation shaft for the new underground car park. The work represents some of the workings of the old furnaces and the Eagles that the works were known for.



10. 'View through the window', by Timothy Shutter, Elizabeth Jennings Way, 2006

A sculpture of a bay window with window seat, to soften the transition from the lakeside garden to the newly built housing estate. It appears as a temple-like folly, with the forms of the mullions and spark plugs highlighting the previous use of the site for the production of Morris cars.



11. 'Meadow Gardens', by Suzanne O Driscoll, Jacksons Road, Cotteslow, 2009

Commissioned by A2Dominion Housing Group, this 6.5 meter high stainless steel sculpture is mounted on the gable wall of their new development, in North Oxford, on the A40 approach to Oxford's city centre .



12. 'United' a wall sculpture, by Diana Bell, Manor Hospital, 2004

This piece celebrates the many people who have visited the site in the past and will visit in the future. It is 8.5 metres long and was cast in marble resin. Named United to acknowledge the former use of the site as Oxford United's football ground.



13. 'Story Book Tree' and benches, by Matt Cave, Bury Knowle Park, 2005

The trunk of the dead cedar tree was carved into a totem pole sculpture featuring characters from the books of the Headington authors J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis: the dragon Smaug from *The Hobbit*, Aslan the lion from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and the horse from *The Horse and His Boy*.



14. 'Willow Pollen', by Steve Geliot, Rivermead, Abingdon Road, 2007

The work is a giant willow seed carved from green oak and local sandstone. This reflects the natural riverside environment where it resides.



15. Mosaic features, by Rob Turner, Barton, 2008

Commissioned by Community Arts Agency, Fusion Arts, and Barratt Homes, artist Rob Turner worked with the local community to create a series of mosaics and features for Bonny Bank park. There are many different mosaic features within the park including benches, gateways and paving features.



16. 'Sunflowers', by the Camelia Botnar Foundation, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, 2009

Apprentices from the Camelia Botnar Foundation in Sussex made a display of 4 ½ meter steel sunflowers for the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre Appeal. The sunflowers have been hand-sculpted from mild steel.



17. Positive Touch, by Helen and Wez Jacobs, Isis Care Home, Cornwallis Road, 2009

This work of art was commissioned by Ithaca (arts and older people agency) who worked with the residents of the care home and local artists Wez and Helen Jacobs to create a sculpture for the entrance roundabout.



18. 'The Glow Tree', by Neil Wood, Blackbird Leys, 2005

Fusion Arts worked closely with the local community in the commission of this 5 meter high stainless steel sculpture for Blackbird Leys Community Centre. It features poetry inspired by a popular community learning project, and involved community groups in both its design and construction.



19. 'The Headington Shark', by John Buckley and Bill Heine, New High Street Headington, 1986

The Shark became the most famous resident of Headington when it landed in the roof of 2 New High Street on 9 August 1986 (the 41st anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki). Created by the sculptor John Buckley, it is made of fiberglass standing over 7 ½ meters tall.



20. Pavement Jewellery, by Liam Curtin, Cowley Road, 2005

A series of 58 bronze ingots were designed by local artists, Katy Beinart, Emily Fuller, Helen McKeith, Gerard Hanson, Emma Reynard and Jane Walton, and laid into the pavement along the Cowley Road. Each ingot holds a puzzle relating to the Cowley Road's history and activities and collectively they form a riddle to solve.



21. Walk Space, by David Little, St Clements to Angel Meadow, 2002

Fusion Arts in partnership with the Healthy Walking Initiative, commissioned artist David Little to develop artwork for a new healthy walking route. A series of quotes taken from conversations with senior citizens about their experiences of walking in the city and memories of particular places were set into brickwork along the route, many hand-carved by stone carver, Simon Keely.



22. Organic forms, by Michie Herbert, Old Temple Cowley School, 2007

Commissioned to stand in the old courtyard of the school that was retained as part of the redevelopment of the school site. Pupils from the new school worked with the artist to look closely at nature in the built environment and worked on their own designs along side the artist.