

22 February 2010

# Annual contemporary sculpture showcase gives Museum's lawns new look for 2010

## The 2010 Fitzwilliam Museum Sculpture Promenade

23 March 2010 - January 2011

The celebrated Sculpture Promenade is returning to the grounds of Cambridge's Fitzwilliam Museum for a second year. Providing a dynamic new focus for contemporary art in the heart of Cambridge, this free annual installation of contemporary sculpture showcases work by some of the most talented artists working today.

Last year's inaugural Sculpture Promenade, which closed on 30 January, is widely regarded as having transformed not only the public perception of the Fitzwilliam Museum, but also the artistic landscape of Cambridge, already becoming a fixture in the city's arts calendar. The Fitzwilliam saw its visitor figures rise by over 30% following the opening of the Promenade, which attracted a high proportion of first-time visitors to both the installation and the Museum itself.

The 2010 Sculpture Promenade, like its predecessor, will feature recent sculpture by members of the Royal British Society of Sculptors (RBS). The artists featured this year are Angela Conner, Ann Christopher, Mike Lyons, Nick Turvey, Nick Hornby and Rob Ward. In contrast to last year's event, the 2010 Promenade will present up to three sculptures by each artist, making this the largest sculpture installation yet seen on the spacious lawns of the Fitzwilliam.

Ranging from monumental works in bronze and steel to wind-driven, mobile forms, the 14 sculptures will once more transform the grounds of the Fitzwilliam, providing a striking complement to the Museum's imposing neoclassical architecture. The arrangement will invite passers-by and visitors to walk amongst the sculptures and experience them 'up-close'.

The Promenade has once more been organised and selected by the Director of The Fitzwilliam Museum, Dr. Timothy Potts, and the Cambridge-based sculptor Helaine Blumenfeld, former Vice-President of the RBS.

Dr. Potts said: "We were delighted with the great success of the inaugural Sculpture Promenade last year, which brought contemporary art out onto the street and so many new visitors into the museum. The installation this year, which groups works by a single artist on each lawn and one under the portico, gives a broader view of each artist than before. They range from some of the most exciting young artists to major established figures, giving a snapshot of some of the most interesting work being created today."

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Angela Conner, *Poise* - featuring in the 2010 Sculpture Promenade



Nick Turvey, *Venus* - featuring in the 2010 Sculpture Promenade



Mike Lyons, *Energy of the Mountain: Echo and Revelation* - featuring in the 2010 Sculpture Promenade

Press Release | The Fitzwilliam Museum

Trumpington Street  
Cambridge CB2 1RB  
England

01223 332900  
www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

Press enquiries: email  
fitzmuseum-press@lists.cam.ac.uk

Helaine Blumenfeld said: "It was tremendously rewarding to see how, within only a few months of its inauguration, the initial Promenade had significantly altered people's perceptions of the Fitzwilliam Museum. The front lawns were transformed into a meeting place, an active and dynamic visitors' space: children were playing amongst the sculptures and people of all ages and backgrounds were touching, photographing, discussing the work. This year, encouraged by the success of our first effort and by the public's clear appreciation of beauty, quality, craft and innovation, we have been more ambitious in the number and scale of the pieces we have chosen."

## About the sculptures on display:

### Angela Conner – *Poise, Sway II, Wave*

Angela Conner's kinetic sculptures, in her own words "harness the forces of our environment – water, wind, gravity, sun". She has produced both indoor and outdoor mobile sculptures thought to be the tallest in the world. The three works featured in the 2010 Promenade interact with the wind, causing light to play over their surface and even compelling one work to 'write' a line in the sky with its soaring vertical shape.

### Ann Christopher – *Line of Silence, Beyond Silence, and Held Shadow*

Having formerly worked in a fine art foundry producing structures for other artists, Ann Christopher's technical skill and experience is used to the full in her cast metal works. These three non-figurative sculptures are heavily influenced by rock formations and cut lines, and are, in Christopher's own words, "about solitude and presence, and demand contemplation; they do not search for the familiar or known".

### Nick Hornby – *I never wanted to weigh more heavily on a man than a bird (Coco Chanel)*

Described as 'the new Gormley' (*ES Magazine*), Nick Hornby is an emerging sculptor whose work interrogates the origin of ideas and how artworks are read and interpreted. His sculpture showing at the Fitzwilliam is created from the "projected imaginary space" that exists between three other sculptures – Hepworth's *Form III*, Rodin's *Walking Man* and Brancusi's *Bird in Space* – and gives the viewer a puzzle asking questions about authorship and autonomy.

### Rob Ward – *Two, Screen and Buttress*

Rob Ward's work is an ongoing dialogue between drawing and sculpture, exploring the spaces between two and three dimensions and incorporating the viewer into a relationship which is meditative, reflective and mindful of the sanctity of place. These three sculptures are part of a series exploring architectural form in a sculptural context, constructed in mirror polished stainless steel to allow the work to reflect its surroundings and its relationship to the viewer.

### Nick Turvey – *Venus and Chief*

Nick Turvey's approach to sculpture is heavily influenced by his training as an architect, followed by fifteen years spent making films. Part of his 'Incarnate' series, both works in the Fitzwilliam display examine the human body as a physical object, as well as the role it plays in myth, propaganda, dream and fetish. Where the skeletal *Chief* evokes the pathos of toppled dictators and heroic warriors, the bulges of *Venus* evokes primal, child-like reactions – is this flab or fecundity?

### Michael Lyons – *Unity of Opposites: Vortex, and Energy of the Mountain: Echo and Revelation*

Informed by the industrial heritage of his upbringing in the heart of the Industrial Midlands, Mike Lyons' dynamic and monumental work draws on mythology, the forces of nature and primitive cultures. These two works on display can be interpreted as exploring the tensions that exist within modern society between materialistic cravings and spiritual needs.

- ends / Notes to editors -



Nick Hornby, *I never wanted to weigh more heavily on a man than a bird (Coco Chanel)* - featuring in the 2010 Sculpture Promenade



Rob Ward, *Two* - featuring in the 2010 Sculpture Promenade



Ann Christopher, *Line of Silence* - featuring in the 2010 Sculpture Promenade



The 2009 Fitzwilliam Museum Sculpture Promenade, on the lawns of the Fitzwilliam Museum

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Cambridge CB2 1RB  
England

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Details for publication:

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23 March 2010 – January 2011

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB

OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00  
Sundays and Bank Holidays: 12.00 – 17.00  
CLOSED: Mondays and Good Friday

ADMISSION FREE

### Press View

The Press View will take place at 11.00am on **Monday 22 March 2010**. For further details please contact the Marketing & Press Office, The Fitzwilliam Museum, email: [fitzmuseum-press@lists.cam.ac.uk](mailto:fitzmuseum-press@lists.cam.ac.uk); Tel: 01223 332941

### Further information and images from:

Marketing and Press Office  
The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB  
Telephone: +44 (0)1223 332941/332900; FAX: +44 (0)1223 332923  
Email: [fitzmuseum-press@lists.cam.ac.uk](mailto:fitzmuseum-press@lists.cam.ac.uk)

### NOTES FOR EDITORS

#### The Fitzwilliam Museum

The Fitzwilliam Museum houses the University of Cambridge's art collection and is a public museum and art gallery with an international reputation. More than half a million objects and works of art are held in five curatorial departments: Antiquities, Applied Arts, Coins and Medals, Manuscripts and Printed Books and Paintings, Drawings and Prints. The Fitzwilliam's treasures range from Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman antiquities to the arts of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and include masterpieces by Titian, Canaletto, Stubbs, Constable, Monet, Renoir and Picasso, one of the world's foremost Rembrandt print collections, Handel music manuscripts and the famous Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, one of the most significant collections of Korean ceramics outside South-East Asia, medieval illuminated manuscripts and outstanding collections of pottery, porcelain and medieval coins. The Fitzwilliam Museum welcomes over 300,000 visitors a year, offers a wide-ranging programme of temporary exhibitions and events, and has an award-winning Education Service. The Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00. Free admission. Website: [www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk)

#### The Royal British Society of Sculptors

Committed to the pursuit of excellence in the art form, the Royal British Society of Sculptors aims to inspire, inform and engage people of all ages and backgrounds with sculpture, to support the development of sculptors' professional and creative practice and to promote good practice. With a worldwide membership of over 500 professional sculptors ranging from those at the peak of their profession to those who are just emerging, the RBS is proud to support diversity and creativity. [www.rbs.org.uk](http://www.rbs.org.uk)

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