

Artwork location3

Tean Kirby ; Riddle of the Stones

Tean says “Port Marine in Portishead has a unique position in the coastal waters around Britian. The deep water channel passes closest to the land and the tidal reach is among the highest in the world. These are dangerous waters with a long history of seafaring.

In the 17th Century, privateers and adventurers sailed from the port of Bristol, waited for the tide in the deep waters off Port Marine before sailing off to the new world.

If you stand at the coastal edge of Port Marine on a wind-swept day, you can feel the untamable wildness and sense the ghosts of those ancient sailing ships. Making real our eternal search for understanding and quest for adventure.

Riddle of the stones seeks to overlay an imaginary legend of the past and the present day drawing on all these elements. Using the physical landscape, the real but intangible world of the internet and our own imaginary world. Tean Kirby; lives and works in Portishead. Studied ceramics at Loughborough in the late 60 s and established a pottery the following decade.

She also served as a member of Portishead town council for over 10 years and was chair in 1991 and 1996.

Artwork location 4

Michael Dan Archer Full Fathom.

One of the largest sculptures installed in the UK, it consists of a forest of Granite columns running across a large earthworks. This iconic sculpture came into the news in 2020 when a video of a parker free running group (the Storrer group) cracked up 600,000 views, which the artist felt was disrespectful as it commemorates lives lost at sea.

The 108 granite columns vary in height from 1m to 3m and are arranged in serpentine aisles which the spectator can walk through to the crest of the mound where a stone has been set to sit on and contemplate the sea. From land or sea, the view reveals that the columns form the profile of a wave. It also mirrors the remains of the old wooden pier.

Text relating to the seafaring history of the site and including the names of ships, cargoes, destinations and parts of a poem relating to the sea, has been inscribed on many of the columns.

Michael Dan Archer: Dan has over 30 years experience in producing public art works for local authorities, public and private institutions. His work is often commissioned for re-generation and re-development of sites and the concept of change and transformation implicit in this informs many of his ideas.

In addition he exhibits widely with work ranging across a variety of media from drawings, printmaking, sculpture, installation and sound.

Dan worked for 30 years as senior lecturer in fine art at Loughborough University.

Artwork location 5

Jon Buck Ship to Shore

Born in Pill, Jon Buck descends from a family of Bristol Pilots, who for generations have safely guided shipping vessels through the dangerous waters of the Bristol channel to Bristol.

Set in an imposing spot overlooking the Bristol Channel Jon Bucks heads, Four meters tall and vibrantly patinated in red, like the bouys

They relate to those that “who journey and those who wait”, acting as a sentinel at the entrance at the entrance to the new marina.

The inspiration for this work can directly from the physical and historical context of the docks in which it is placed. The form of the work reflects the shipping bollards that still exist along the old quayside. Superimposed is a

male head looking out to sea and above is his female counterpart facing quayside. This refers to the dichotomy always present in seafaring communities.

“Ship to shore was a type of communication used to connect the two.” Jon Buck’

Jon : Exhibits regularly in Europe and America and most recently at Clearwell caves, Jon took his Masters at Manchester and was awarded Fellowship at Cheltenham School of Art .Elected RWA in 1990.

Artwork location 6.

Mark Merer: Energy Artworks

Energy Artwork, fabricated by m-tec with Mark, is a stainless steel sculpture (laser cut and bead-blasted that references the site s power station. The tubular form recalls the old chimneys while the internal moving light reflects the power station and highlights the pattern of reflected light on water that has been cut into the form. The whole piece comes together to creat a gateway or beacon to the new marina.

Those wave like cut outs also mimic the shapes and lines in the mud at low tide. The wet mud always appears surprisingly reflective of light and it s hard to distinguish between the water and the freshly exposed mudflats.

Mark Merer: is an architect who describes himself as a land artist (an artist /sculptor whose medium is the environment).

“I am first and foremost a land artist. I was brought up in an architectural hands-on milieu in the Far East where my father was working as an architect on large building projects and infrastructure. I saw how ideas become reality, and the complexity of the process of transformation. My primary obsession is how we exist on earth and, specifically, how we shape it. I am looking for a balanced union between the two, a balance between spirit and matter.”

Artwork location7

Michael Disley: The lady sings

This piece is carved in Cadeby limestone and represents a siren singing to the sailors. It also celebrates the life of Fred Weatherly from Portishead who wrote the lyrics to “Danny Boy” amongst others. This was carved in a tent on site in Port Marine.

Weatherly, a barrister and prolific song writer, was born in 63 Woodhill Road, Portishead, on the 4th October 1848. He wrote the lyrics to Danny boy around the time of the death of his father and only son (they died in 1910 about 3 months apart). He eventually found a suitable melody and it was published in 1913.

“Roses of Picardy another of his songs quickly became popular across Britain. During World War One, 50,000 copies of sheet music were sold a month. The song was so popular that soldiers would sing it, and it is rumored that it would help soldiers regain speech when suffering from shell shock.

Artwork location8

Michael Disley: The Bristol and Portishead Pier Railway

It was in Weatherly's era that the “Bristol and Portishead Railway Company” opened (1867), finally giving Portishead a rail link to Brunel's Bristol and Exeter mainline.

The broad-gauge single line railway terminated with a small station here just below the Royal Hotel. This station was demolished in 2014 to make way for the new RNLI lifeboat station, opened in 2015.

The line had stations at Clifton Bridge, Portbury, Pill and Portishead
Opened from Portishead junction to Portishead Pier 18th April 1867
Closed to passengers in September 1964, Line closed April 3rd 1981.

Artwork location9

Rick Kirby: Echo

Rick has several artworks over the new development. This is intended to welcome boats to the Marina and connect to his iconic Installation in central park.

The figurative pose is welcoming and even though it towers above us, it is gentle and kind, like a mother welcoming a child home from school.

Artwork location 10.

Matthew Fedden: Car park ventilation grills

The same artist who designed the gates to the Primary School. A metal work designer who's process is forging. This technique exploits fluidity and shape. This echos the shapes of the dancing reflections of the water in the marina.

Very often, those utilitarian aspects of our urban spaces, like the gates and fences are thought of in purely functional terms rather than considering their design in the context in which they are to be installed.

If you look closely between the grills on the car park ventilation you may spot something There is a trail of ships, pirates and rats that weaves through Port Marin, based on the tale of Ned Teach (born in the Redcliffe area of Bristol around 1680) who became the pirate Blackbeard.

Artwork location 11

Michael Disley: Topping out.

Topping out is another of Michael Disley s artworks fixed high up In a modern building the past and present connected. Topping out ceremonies were popular in the 1930s and 1950s, all the construction workers were given time off for a party to celebrate the completion of major structures, this one commemorates the topping out of Portishead B power station on the site the present buildings stand.

