

Hands on sculpture training...

The University for the Creative Arts Farnham sets up a new foundry with the help of CFA

John Joyce tells us more...

I am a fine art metals and foundry technician at The University College for the Creative Arts, Farnham. I have recently taken up the position of Foundry man in the College's new state of the art bronze casting facility.

On taking on this new appointment, I was assigned the task of finding a commercial bronze foundry which could offer an intensive training course, for me and fellow technicians in allied areas, throughout the University College. The problem I faced was finding a foundry which could cater specifically for our particular needs. I tried several foundries before finally deciding on Castle Fine Art.

The rationale behind this decision was, that they were the only foundry who could offer a tailor-made course to suit our needs, and at a very competitive price. Before the course each participant was provided with their own pack of modelling wax and instructions, with which to produce a wax model to take along to the course.

For our purposes the course was designed around a one-week, hands-on, intensive instruction, in the art of ceramic shell mould making and bronze casting for the artist. The real benefit for us being that we were producing our own, and not commercial work. This enabled each of us to focus on and solve any problems which we encountered

during the whole process, from the initial wax preparation to the final patination, all of which was achieved in just one week!

Chris Butler the proprietor of Castle Fine Art, was our tutor and host for the week. His extensive knowledge, experience and enthusiasm for teaching and imparting his skills in the art of bronze casting enabled us to quickly master the basic skills. We returned to Farnham with a very good level of competency with which to confidently carry out our roles in this new and exciting venture.

It only remains for me to say a huge thank you to all the staff at Castle Fine Art, on behalf of myself, Nick Lott, Mark Gray, Rebecca Skeels and Richard Jack (the attendees on the course) for making our stay such a pleasurable one. I would also like to take this opportunity to thoroughly recommend to anyone who might be in a similar position to ourselves, or as an individual artist, considering expanding into this area, to contact them now!



Open Studios



www.carolpeace.com

Carol Peace is a Bristol based artist and has worked with the foundry for many years. Carol's love of figurative drawing led her to set up a drawing school.

Carol said of her new venture:

"My first Open Studios at Paintworks, in Bristol, will take place in my studio, Unit 5.2 but will also spill over into the soon to be Bristol Drawing School in 5.3. This is an exciting new project that I am involved in setting up; a space dedicated to promoting the importance of drawing.

In both spaces I will be showing sculptures from life size to very small, life drawings, some paintings and prints; I also have some new bronzes. Some pieces will be in progress so you will be able to see a bit of the process.

Drawing is an integral part of the process of my work. I draw the figure to familiarise myself with the human form; without constantly referencing, analysing and being inspired by the lines and forms of the human figure I can not make sculpture intuitively or satisfactorily. Drawing makes the creative process of working with clay more fluid, gives me confidence that the imagined form in front of me is ok.

crucible



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Issue 7

Creative Development

Announcing the opening of the Castle Fine Arts Sculpture Studio - a new facility where we can work with artists to both scale up and create new work in a creative, practical environment.

The Victorian building was once the foundry of the long since gone Cambrian railway and large open buildings provide a great space to produce large sculptures.

Located in the centre of Oswestry, the studio will complement our foundry facility located only twenty minutes drive away at Llanrhaeadr and artists will be able to work at either site as required.

As always you are welcome to visit and we hope the exciting development will benefit the growing number of artists who

are using our services to help with their larger projects.

We are also developing a brand new Castle Fine Arts website.

There are lots of exciting new features on the website, including a forum where you can ask any burning questions you may have about the process we follow or just about Castle Fine Arts in general.

An E-Shot service will be available for you to sign up to, where we will keep you updated with any interesting news or events by e-mail.

To find out more please visit our new site at www.bronzefoundry.com



The New Studio

Honouring Heroes



Our largest ever project... completed.

Find out more...

Crucible is published twice a year. If you are not already on our mailing list contact us right away:
t: 01691 780 261; f: 01691 780 011; e: info@bronzefoundry.co.uk or complete and return the slip below.

Name _____
Occupation _____
Company name (if applicable) _____
Address: _____

Postcode _____
Tel: _____
Email: _____
Website address: _____

I wish to subscribe FREE to Crucible

I would like to know more about:

- The New Studio
- Hands on Sculpture
- Sharing Web Links

Please note - we will not pass your details on to any third parties without your permission.

Autumn 07



Castle Fine Arts Foundry Ltd
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant Oswestry Powys SY10 0AA
Tel 01691 780 261 Fax 01691 780 011
e info@bronzefoundry.co.uk website www.bronzefoundry.co.uk

Castle Fine Arts Foundry Ltd
Units N6B & N7 Inchbrook Trading Estate Stroud Gloucestershire GL5 5EY
Tel 01453 836 123

Designed and produced by SC Design 07940 916759

inside

A Royal Visit
Queen attends unveiling of Armed Forces Memorial 2

Making History
More royalty immortalised in the foundry 2

Braving the Elements
Sean Henry's outstanding sculpture 'Couple' 3

Training the Trainer
Hands on Sculpture Training 4

The Queen unveils the Armed Forces Memorial

This major new memorial is sited on the top of a specially landscaped hill at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire.

To meet the tight deadline on the project Ian worked at our Stroud studio to scale up and finish the work and became very much part of the team.

"Castle can be depended on to deliver, even when the pressure to meet a deadline seems overwhelming. I am certain no other foundry could have cast the sculpture for the Armed Forces Memorial in time and to the required standard."

It was a very proud moment for us all when this high profile and prestigious landmark was completed. To celebrate the conclusion of this momentous project all the workforce from CFA visited the site with Ian so everyone could see the result of their efforts.

To find out more visit:

www.nationalmemorialarboretum.org



Designed and sculpted by Ian Rank Broadley...part of the team



Couple brave the North Sea

Sean Henry's "Couple" is the first "off-shore" public sculpture in Britain. It is also B I G!

Sited on a new breakwater looking out to sea the two 5 metre figures create an impressive landmark for New Biggen, Northumbeland.

Sean says about the project... "I was very happy with the way the whole project went, and with the tight deadlines given due to the marine structure there was a lot of pressure. Castle Fine Arts provided the sculpture on time and importantly to budget.

The casting was of a very professional standard and this gave me the confidence that the sculpture would be able to withstand the extreme marine conditions it would be under."

The fabrication and finishing of the couple was carried out in collaboration with Charles Andersen whose skill, engineering experience and vast workshop were greatly appreciated by the foundry and the artist.

Sean added... "I was very pleased that Castle Fine Arts were able to provide me with the space in Liverpool when we needed it most, and with Charles Anderson who applied the paint to the sculptures, a very important part of the process."

Find out more at www.seanhenry.com



Awarding Talent

Castle Fine Arts recently worked with two sculptors, Scott Middleton and Clara Collings after sponsoring a £1,000 casting award for the RWA Sculpture Show.

Vice President of the academy John Huggins tells us... 'The type of work and artist varies somewhat from the generic annual shows including rather younger sculptors and work that might be problematic to show in a mixed exhibition. So unusual, sometimes transient materials are acceptable along

with site specific, video, kinetic and installation are given a fair viewing with traditional crafts like bronze casting and carving in the minority.'

Castle foundry agreed this time to offer prizes in kind - a few days of experimental work in the foundry.

He added... 'it was hoped that the winners would share Chris's scant respect for entrenched dogma in the ancient craft.'



Capp's Off

"Castle Foundry are always there for my questions and queries...I rely on them! I know I can trust them to communicate with my commissioning clients really well too The Andy Capp figure for Hartlepool Council was fun to do, and I'm sculpting Fred Dibnah for Bolton next, so I seem to have cornered the market in flat capped Northerners!"

Jane Robbins

"Chris and his team at Castle Fine Arts are a group of that you know will deliver. I know that not only is it important to them that their work is on time, but also that it is of the highest standard. Castle Fine Arts consistently meet and exceed my expectations and they have never failed to produce something exciting that I am proud to have commissioned."

Fred Storey
Story Construction Ltd

Making History

This summer saw two historical warlords – one Welsh, one English - standing peacefully side by side amid the noise of the foundry

Owain Glyndwr

Bronzes cast at Castle Fine Arts are now installed all over the world so it was a nice change to work on a major project which now stands proudly only a few miles from Llanrhaeadr; on the A5 in Corwen.

"The team at Castle Fine Arts showed their usual immeasurable capability and highly tuned skills in the production and installation of Glyndwr. It was very reassuring to have them on board."

Also as Glyndwr's family had lands in Llansilin it was extremely appropriate to have the sculpture cast so locally."

Colin Spofforth



Edward I

Chris Kelly's statue of Edward I, 'Hammer of the Scot's', stands in the village of Brugh by Sands near Carlisle, close to where he died in battle.

The statue was commissioned by property developer Fred Storey to commemorate the 700th anniversary of his death on 7th July 2007. This is the third major work Fred Storey has commissioned from the foundry.



Two monumental bronzes by Sophie Ryder were completed this summer - both destined for foreign lands

'Large Crawling Hare' went on show in Germany and because of its sheer size required some major logistical wizardry in it's journey across Europe. The work arrived safely thanks to M-Tek.

'Dancing Hares' was shipped to New York and installed by CFA in Connecticut with the assistance our American based colleagues Stokes of England Blacksmiths.

www.sophieryder.com

