

Jim Whelan

Sculptor | Painter | Stained Glass Artist

73 BRAMWELL AVENUE PRENTON WIRRAL CH43 0RQ

t. 0151 608 9768 m. 07745 115454 e. jim@jimwhelan.co.uk w. jimwhelan.co.uk

Personal Statement

A highly motivated, enthusiastic fine artist. Widely experienced in various media, I enjoy the challenge of working in new and different areas. Specialist in figurative sculpture, oil painting, traditional and contemporary stained glass.

Career History

PUBLIC SCULPTURE / INSTALLATIONS

Wirral Investment Network

Commissioned to build an environmentally friendly, mixed media automaton, based on a student's sketch, from a school competition. This featured on BBC'S Blue Peter.

Birkenhead Town Hall

Created a plaque of the Birkenhead Coat of Arms.

Birkenhead Central Library

WW1 STAINED GLASS WINDOW. Commissioned to interpret a small sketch into an 8ft by 15ft window for the front of the library. I redesigned it, from the sketch of artist, David Hillhouse, enlarged it onto paper, then cut out and painted the glass, leaded up and installed the finished piece.

Williamson Art Gallery, Birkenhead

Created a WW1 life-size trench scene, complete with three figures. Mixed media. Also created 3D puzzles, interactive for some of their permanent exhibits.

Pacific Road Arts Centre

Designed glass panels with imagery linked to transport.

Walker Art Gallery

Commissioned to create 3D puzzles for their child friendly gallery.

Futility Sculpture, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead

Commissioned to create a full-bronze sculpture of a First World War Tommy for the Birkenhead Institute Old Boys, for the fallen from the Great War and for those lost in subsequent wars. The figure is 10% bigger than life size and is situated just off the famous Hamilton Square close to the Town Hall.

John Lennon Bust, Liverpool

A personal project with my old art-school friend to produce a John Lennon bust circa 1962 (Sgt.Pepper)

Jim Whelan

Sculptor | Painter | Stained Glass Artist

Career History continued

PRIVATE SCULPTURE COMMISSIONS

Unilever

Small scale bust of William Hesketh Lever and a Pony Express rider

John Fitton Sculpture

A small memorial sculpture for a friend's wife who sadly died ice climbing.

Bidston Avenue Junior School

Log Bench carved from a fallen tree for Bidston Avenue Junior School.

Mallory and Irvine bust and sculpture

Bronze bust and figure, one day I intend to make a full size monument to both men.

Park High School

Metal trampolinist, larger than life-size, Park High School.

French Art Collector

Two Resin Gorillas for an art collector in France, both 8ft. Cubist influences.

Local heroes

Dixie Dean, Bill Shankly and John Lennon busts.

John Lennon Bust, Liverpool

A personal project with my old art-school friend to produce a John Lennon bust circa 1962 (Sgt.Pepper)

OTHER ART COMMISSIONS

Groundwork Wirral

Commissioned to paint a subway at Rock Park, mainly painting images submitted by local school children. I also included images based on local history.

Komyokan Martial Arts School

Commissioned to design and make a commemorative stained glass panel portrait of the founder member, Morihei Ueshiba.

Mural for a client in France Commissioned piece for a client in France.

Artist in Residence at the Birkenhead Town Hall.

Artist in residence, my work included: The glass balcony at Pacific Road Transport Museum.

The stained glass window in Birkenhead Central Library. Original Mallory and Irvine model sculpture. H. M. S. Thetis 6 ft. model, hand made.

ART EXHIBITIONS

Williamson Annual Open Regularly exhibit at the Williamson Annual Open.

Received the top prize in 1994, purchase prize and Curators choice for outstanding work in 1995.

Manchester Academy of Fine Arts Exhibited and won Bradshaw and Latham & Sons Award, 1996.

Blackthorn Art Gallery One man show - 'Still Life Still Dead!'

Liver Building Exhibitions Group show exhibiting some of my artworks.

Art Box Global Exhibition including A.T. Hun Gallery, Savannah.

Unilever exhibited for **Seventh Wave Creations**.

Jim Whelan

Sculptor | Painter | Stained Glass Artist

73 BRAMWELL AVENUE PRENTON WIRRAL CH43 0RQ

t. 0151 608 9768 m. 07745 115454 e. jim@jimwhelan.co.uk w. jimwhelan.co.uk

Joe Orton Sculpture Proposal

Artist: Jim Whelan

As a life-long artist I have experimented and worked in all mediums, but sculpture is the medium I love the most.

That feeling of being able to walk around the work, 360 degrees, touch it and physically interact with it, is almost without equal.

Sculpture is a more immediate art form because our eyes see in 3D all the time and cannot be fooled! For me, it must look just like life, there are no short cuts.

I am an avid reader of books. As a young art student, I read Joe Orton's book, "Prick up your ears" and admired his unique humour and his individual, alternative take on life. His untimely death was a great loss to the creative industries.

I have a similar outsiders view on life, to Joe's subversive nature. Often as artists we are outsiders looking in.

I admire his confidence in himself, at a time when many others feared to be themselves.

I love that he was fiercely proud of his background and the streets where he was raised, unapologetic and unafraid to speak his mind. This is true for me also. To immortalise Joe would be an absolute honour and also a fantastic opportunity.

I have been lucky enough to be able to work on a monumental scale, which I love and was recently able to do so in my last public commission. I created a larger than life size full bronze figure of an exhausted World War 1 Tommy, sat reflecting on the horrors of war, having a brief respite, before getting back up to fight again.

The sculpture is called Futility, due to our towns links with the war poet Wilfred Owen, who was a former student at a local school, the Birkenhead Institute. The Birkenhead Institute Old Boys, raised the money for it. The sculpture commemorates the brave 88 lads, from the institute, who lost their lives, of which Owen, of course, was one.

Whilst it was lovely to have the Royal patronage of Harry and Meghan, who officially unveiled it, the most touching part for me was when some primary aged students from a school for the blind, came to feel the tactile sculpture and they loved it!

The sculpture has been well received by everyone and is loved and protected by the locals who live near to it.

I am humbled by this and am so proud to have achieved success with this. It was an honour and a privilege, particularly being such a huge fan of Wilfred Owens incredible poetry. I feel that this experience and my other commissions, demonstrate that I am able to work with many different groups, through each process, to produce a wonderful art form, on time and on budget.

Through previous projects, I have close contacts with a wonderful foundry, who have an excellent facility for me to work, in Liverpool. Castle Foundry specialise in large scale bronze sculpture and have decades of experience of producing phenomenal pieces. The staff there have real integrity and show professionalism at every stage.

I hope I get the opportunity to be seriously considered for this commission. It would certainly be a huge honour.

Jim Whelan

Sculptor | Painter | Stained Glass Artist

73 BRAMWELL AVENUE PRENTON WIRRAL CH43 0RQ

t. 0151 608 9768 m. 07745 115454 e. jim@jimwhelan.co.uk w. jimwhelan.co.uk

Joe Orton Sculpture Proposal

Answering the Brief:

I have submitted two different designs for the sculpture. Both have been created to be places not only for the public to admire and enjoy Joe, but spaces to be able to reflect and to interact with.

Both sculptures would be created on a life-size scale, to reflect the inclusive nature of the art and so that the work is not just a thing of awe! I feel this is in keeping with the personality of Joe and not so imposing in scale, as to put off viewers.

Sculpture One: Standing Figure of Joe, against a wall.

Based on some wonderful photographs of Joe, the standing figure would be leaning back on to a wall, collars up on his raincoat and with that very cheeky sideways glance, looking slightly mischievous! Perhaps the wall is from the library, or even a prison! The back of the wall could be viewed and would have etched on to it or graffiti, using key quotes, slogans, important names or places.



Materials: Clay to produce modelling, then casting to full Bronze figure, with brick wall (local brick) perhaps corner wall.

Jim Whelan

Sculptor | Painter | Stained Glass Artist

73 BRAMWELL AVENUE PRENTON WIRRAL CH43 0RQ

t. 0151 608 9768 m. 07745 115454 e. jim@jimwhelan.co.uk w. jimwhelan.co.uk

Joe Orton Sculpture Proposal

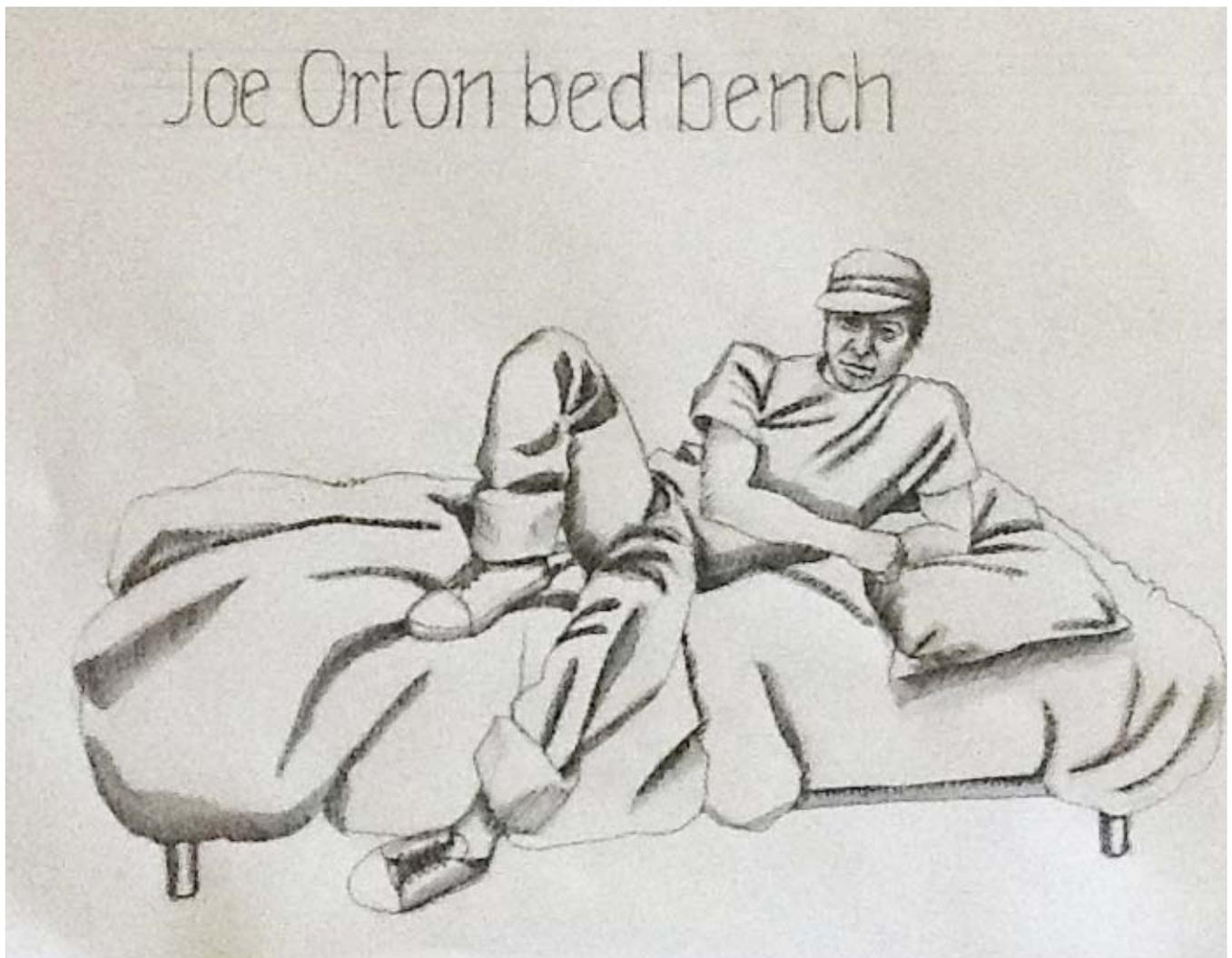
Sculpture Two: Reclining figure of Joe on a bed.

On this design, Joe's bed would be higher up than a real bed, to serve as a bench, encouraging the public to sit with him, step into his shoes or be there as though to talk with him, put their arm around him, take a selfie and so on!

Joe would be dressed in his trademark tight t-shirt and denims with turnups, or perhaps bare chested as he is shown in some images.

The bed would be again covered in key quotes, names etc....., perhaps books, writing materials or significant other items.

Both proposals would be created initially in clay and cast in bronze.



Materials: Clay to produce modelling,
then casting to full Bronze figure,

Jim Whelan

Sculptor | Painter | Stained Glass Artist



Jim Whelan standing by 'Futility'



Full Bronze / Futility



A model of Wilfred Owen / Futility

Wilfred Owen – The Futility Project - Full Bronze Figure / Hamilton Square. Birkenhead

I was approached by a group of old boys from Birkenhead Institute and asked to make a model of a drawing done by David Jones, a fellow old boy who has sadly passed on. After showing my model to Castle foundry, the foundry owner Chris Butler asked me to make a larger, more detailed model. From the second model the life size clay sculpture was made. That was cast into green wax, then into a bronze monument, life size +10%.

see: <http://jimwhelan.co.uk/the-futility-project> for more information.