

SCULPTURE WALK

Key points

Approximate distance/time
without Extended Walk = 1Km (25 mins)

Approximate distance/time
with Extended Walk = 5Km (1 hour)

Extended Walk

Follow along the C.P. Snow Walk,
pass the Innovation Centre,
Spectra, and LRC buildings.
Turn right and continue
towards the Oval.

de Havilland Campus

Mosquito Way
Hatfield AL10 9EU

College Lane Campus

Hatfield AL10 9AB



INTRODUCTION

The University of Hertfordshire Art Collection comprises over 500 artworks displayed across its campuses. This Sculpture Walk highlights 13 outdoor works that reflect the evolving story of British sculpture. Established in 1952, the Collection has grown over the decades to enrich and animate the campus landscape, bringing sculptures, paintings, prints, and mixed-media works into the spaces where people study, work and visit.

1 Barbara Hepworth 1903-1975
VERTICAL FORMS, 1951, HOPTON WOOD STONE

Vertical Forms is one of the five works which inaugurated the Collection. It depicts a trio of interlocking abstracted figures that were inspired by multiple drawings of dancers, who regularly visited the artist's studio. The sculpture was created at a time when Hepworth turned away from her interest in landscape and concentrated on the human figure.

In 2019 the sculpture was removed from its original external location to prevent further weathering, and to ensure its preservation for the future. It was conserved and went on display in two seminal exhibitions. In 2022, it returned to campus and is now housed at the entrance to the Art + Design Building.

2 John Farnham b.1942
TORSO, 1980, BRONZE

John Farnham was born in Hertfordshire, and growing up next door to Henry Moore, he was fortunate to become Moore's assistant. After a lengthy apprenticeship that encompassed all aspects of sculpture, from building armatures to making enlargements, Farnham established his own artistic practice. *Torso* comes from a series of bronze sculptures in which he depicts an abstracted human form with curvaceous and muscular qualities. Much like his tutor's working process, Farnham allows the colour and features of the material with which he works to determine the final outcome.

3 Andy Goldsworthy b.1956
HATFIELD CAIRN, 2001, SLATE

Used since prehistoric times, cairns are mounds of rough stones built as a memorial or landmark. Since the 1980s Andy Goldsworthy has worked with this motif, making cairns all over the world in many materials incl. stone, ice, branches and slate. Goldsworthy is renowned globally for his contribution to 'Land Art'; creating ephemeral and permanent site-specific sculptures that masterfully contribute to the natural beauty of rural locations. *Hatfield Cairn* was commissioned during the artist's residency at the University in Dec 2001.

4 Barbara Lander b.1956
ENTRANCE, 1974, STEEL

This 'assemblage' has been constructed from new and found pieces of steel. In the artist's hands, discarded scrap is given new life, coming together with new elements to create a fresh sculptural form. Like many sculptures produced during the 1990s, the materials and welding process give the work an industrial feel. However, Lander intended *Entrance* to embody motherhood, both the physical side of childbirth and the emotional responsibilities of becoming a parent and protector.

5 Hermione Harper
UNTITLED (BENCH), 1978, CERAMIC

Untitled (Bench) can be defined as both 'street furniture' and sculpture, going beyond the core function of a bench to suggest an organic form. The choice of material is unusual for large outdoor sculpture, but the colour and texture aptly reflect elements from the natural world; vertebrae, shells, rocks, gullies or glaciers. The work was fired at Digsweil Arts Trust during Harper's fellowship there.

6 Diane Maclean b.1939
MOUNTAIN, 2005, STAINLESS STEEL, SOUND, LIGHT, PHOTOGRAPHS

This immersive and multi-sensory sculpture invites people inside to participate, rather than merely observe. The reflective quality of the surfaces is disorientating but places us directly within the sculpture. The crunch of slate beneath our feet is echoed in the sound piece that captures glacial movement. Our attention is drawn to the series of small vignettes, featuring illuminated images of different minerals. Commissioned by the Natural History Museum, *Mountain* is one of several artworks that have resulted from Diane Maclean's collaborations with scientists working in the field of climate change and mineralogy.

7 Keith Maddison b.1951
GEOFFREY DE HAVILLAND, 1977, BRONZE

Sir Geoffrey de Havilland was an aeronautical engineer and aviation pioneer. He constructed his first machine in 1909 without having seen an aeroplane in flight and remarkably taught himself to fly. He went on to design more than 50 aircraft, incl. the Mosquito, DH-2 fighter and the DH-4 light bomber, which saw worldwide service and played a major role in the establishment of US Air Mail.

In 1951, the de Havilland Company gave land to Hertfordshire County Council for educational use as Hatfield Technical College. This life-size bronze statue was unveiled by The Duke of Edinburgh in 1997. It depicts Sir Geoffrey de Havilland within the conventions of traditional commemorative portraiture.

8 Tabatha Gravener b.1980
SPIRAL BRIDGE, 2007, CORTEN STEEL

Spiral Bridge is deliberately located at the meeting point of the new architecture of The Forum and Nursery, and the old woodland beyond. Its form and scale were inspired by meteorological diagrams that represent the meeting of hot and cold air fronts, which create a spiral shape as rising hot air is forced down by cold air fronts. The choice of 'weathering' Corten steel is significant; this material forms a stable rust-like appearance if exposed to the elements for several years.

Tabatha Gravener graduated in Fine Art from the University of Hertfordshire (2011). This piece won the Student Sculpture Commission, generously sponsored by Birch Engineering.

9 Nicola Hutchison b.1977
INVITATION TO LEAP, TOUCH, MAKE SOUND, 2013, STAINLESS STEEL

These discreet sculptures are interactive, only coming to life when a participant strikes them. Nicola Hutchison invites passers-by to create their own music with these metallic spheres, each one a different size and producing a different tone. The artist's interest lies in developing ways people can listen more attentively to the sounds and rhythms of a given environment. She also highlights the repeated architectural feature of the courtyards and the flow of students, staff and visitors through these walkways.

Nicola Hutchison graduated in MSc Music Composition for Film and Media from the University of Hertfordshire (2011).



This is the original site of *Vertical Forms*. Commissioned for the opening of Hatfield Technical College, it was originally built directly into the fabric of the building, in a material found elsewhere in the architecture. The three abstracted vertical figures stood upright in contrast with the strong horizontal lines of the Main Building. The sculpture remained on the external wall for over 70 years.

10 Trevor Tennant 1900-1980
COLLEGE PLAN, 1952, STONE

Trevor Tennant was commissioned in 1948 to respond to the architect's design for the Main Building of Hatfield Technical College. Reproduced in a clean white Bianco del Mare stone, this schematic relief depicts the original geometric footprint, which is now somewhat obscured by more recent architectural developments. Tennant predominantly carved sculptures for public spaces and believed passionately in placing artistic creativity at the heart of everyday life.

College Plan was relocated to its current site in 2013 from the former Main Entrance to the University.

11 Zoe Lynch b.1995
ALTOCUMULUS, 2016, STAINLESS STEEL

This sculpture takes its name from the meteorological term 'altocumulus' describing a cloud formation of rounded masses with a level base. Zoe Lynch translates this into an ornate assymetric archway, cleverly transforming robust material into a delicate layer, by a complex punctured pattern. The sculpture is light-dependent, becoming almost translucent in sunlight and projecting dramatic shadows at other times. Within this open landscaped area of the campus, it sits comfortably among the other natural features of grass, trees and water.

Zoe Lynch graduated in Fine Art from the University of Hertfordshire (2016). This piece won the Student Sculpture Commission, generously sponsored by Birch Engineering.

12 Unknown
UNTITLED (KNEELING FIGURE), LIMESTONE

Little is known about this modest figure carved in stone, almost lost within its wooded setting. The artist depicts a seated human figure with arms folded across the chest. The work demonstrates an interest in primitive forms and geometric abstraction. Its surface is weathered by natural elements, blending the boundary between the manmade artwork and its organic forest habitat.

13 Diane Maclean b.1939
DIABOLO, 2018, STAINLESS STEEL

This imposing 4.5m high sculpture takes its name and inspiration from the ancient Chinese spinning toy: a diablo. Its form relates to pyramidal shapes, and the dynamic surface changes from red to purple, blue to gold. The colour is created by daylight entering a fine oxide layer and varies as the viewer moves around the work in the changing light of day. This scientific dimension to the sculpture is typical of Diane Maclean's practice.

A graduate in Fine Art from the University of Hertfordshire in the 1980s, Diane Maclean received an Honorary Doctorate three decades later (2017) in acknowledgement of her impressive career as a sculptor.

In 2023, the University's Art Collection gained Accredited Museum status, recognising its commitment to the highest standards of care, curation and public engagement.

