

April 2021

New sculpture by internationally renowned artist installed at University of Hertfordshire

Diabolo by Diane Maclean

UH Arts is delighted to announce that the University of Hertfordshire Art Collection has acquired its 14th outdoor sculpture – a striking, light-reflecting, pyramidal form called *Diabolo*. The sculpture is the second in the Collection by internationally renowned sculptor and UH alumna Diane Maclean. It has been installed in time for International Sculpture Day on 24 April and can be seen on the University's de Havilland campus.

Made in 2018 from coloured stainless steel, *Diabolo* is based on the form of the ancient Chinese spinning toy. The sculpture follows a series of pyramidal forms artist Diane Maclean has developed over the years for sculptures in the landscape.

The colour of the material is created by daylight entering a clear oxide on the surface of the curved and polished stainless steel at varying angles. The colour changes through red, purple, blue and gold with the light of day and as perceived from different angles. This kind of scientific element is typical of Maclean's practice.

Commenting on the installation Maclean said, "I am delighted to have donated my sculpture *Diabolo* to the University of Hertfordshire – representing my enduring relationship with the University. It is a playful work; the colour being created purely by natural light and its geometry reacting with the surrounding landscape and trees."

An alumna of the University of Hertfordshire, Diane Maclean is an established sculptor who has exhibited widely across the UK and Europe. *Diabolo*, fabricated by Birch Engineering Ltd, has been exhibited at Doddington Hall in 2018, and in 2019 at Abbey of Beaulieu in Hampshire and Marks Hall, Essex, after which it was donated to the UH Art Collection in 2020. It is the second sculpture by Maclean in the Collection.

The University of Hertfordshire Art Collection features over 500 artworks displayed across its campuses. Open to campus audiences and the public (when Covid-19 restrictions allow), a dedicated Sculpture Walk introduces the 14 outdoor sculptures in the Collection, presenting an eclectic group of works which map the changing characteristics of British Sculpture since the 1950s. A narrated digital sculpture tour is available at www.uharts.co.uk alongside digital galleries showcasing the extensive University Art Collection.

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For further press information, images and interview requests, please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Diane Maclean

Diane Maclean was born in London of Scottish descent. She studied Modern Languages at University College London (1956-59) and then lived abroad with her husband mainly in Africa between 1961 and 1975. Throughout the 1970's she won many portrait commissions in Europe, USA, Canada and South Africa and exhibited at the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

In 1980 she entered the Hertfordshire College of Art & Design to study sculpture (1980-85). Her inclusion in the 'New Contemporaries' exhibition in 1986 launched her current career and since then she has participated in numerous shows in the UK, Europe, the Baltic countries, Scandinavia, Canada, Japan and China. Her art practice includes public commissions and temporary installations, such as Dundee Airport, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, Xscape Milton Keynes and the University of Hertfordshire. Her most recent solo exhibition was Salisbury Cathedral, 2019.

Upcoming: 2021 will see exhibitions at Burghley House and St Albans Cathedral (as part of the International Organ Festival) and ongoing public commissions in Dundee and Hitchin.

UH Arts Sculpture Month & International Sculpture Day

Digital tours, creative activities and interviews with artists are available throughout April to celebrate the University's Art Collection and International Sculpture Day.

A narrated **Digital Sculpture Tour** incorporates all 14 of the University's outdoor sculptures:

<http://www.uharts.co.uk/read-watch-listen-pages/guided-sculpture-walks>

An interview with Diane Maclean will be available from International Sculpture Day on 24 April:

<http://www.uharts.co.uk/whats-on/2021/spring-summer/meet-the-artist-diane-maclean>

Showcases of the University Art Collection are available to view here:

<http://www.uharts.co.uk/about-us/art-collection>

Find out more at www.uharts.co.uk and <https://sculpture.org/page/isday>

About UH Arts in the School of Creative Arts, University of Hertfordshire

Sitting within the School of Creative Arts, UH Arts curates and manages the University's Art Collection. It also offers a vibrant arts and cultural programme for the University of Hertfordshire's campus and local communities, working cross-arts with artists and performers. With a programme of exhibitions, performances, residencies and engagement projects, UH Arts delivers excellent, innovative arts and culture with associated research; offering space for artists and performers to experiment, and audiences to engage and co-produce. Working in collaboration with St Albans Museum + Gallery, and other key partners, UH Arts presents off-campus exhibitions and events, displaying works from around the world in new contexts. For more information, visit

www.uharts.co.uk

Diane Maclean, Diabolo, 2018, Coloured stainless steel



Diane Maclean, Mountain, 2005, Stainless steel, sound, light, photographs

