

STRETCHING THE IMAGINATION

monumental bronze sculpture - 1m high x 3m long x 1m deep

Artist's Aim

Overview

The sculpture *Stretching the Imagination*, as its title implies, is designed to stimulate the imagination, broaden the mind and widen one's horizons. The meaning and humour in the sculpture will appeal to people from all backgrounds and of all ages, from young children through to the elderly. Owing to its low elevation (1 metre) and extended narrow form, the public can interact safely with the sculpture. Its surface is accessible to everyone to touch, including disabled people in wheel-chairs and the blind.

Aesthetics

The form is based on the golden section, in that the proportions of each half of the face are balanced in a satisfying way according to the golden ratio. The sculpture is designed to have an aesthetic appeal from every angle, and has intriguing details on all sides.

From the front, the wry smile on the lips and the broadness of the face give a cheerful and accessible feeling to the whole sculpture. The brow-line and nose, as well as the hands themselves, are full of character. The sculpture depicts, in detail, the articulations of fingers and their joints. The details of the fingernails can be appreciated from the side views.

In contrast to the front, the back view is more metaphysical and restful: it invites the viewer to participate in a more contemplative way. The flowing and gently curving lines of tension may suggest the "movement" of ideas through the mind. On the other hand, they may awaken more physical images such as the gyri and sulci of the human brain, the movement of water, the shimmering of a heatwave, or the vastness of the South Australian landscape. The central lines may evoke the image of a tree with exposed roots, such as is commonly seen in the creek-beds of the Flinders Ranges. Since the eyes are still evident from the rear, the casual viewer, approaching the sculpture from behind, immediately wonders what is in front.

The sculpture will not date: its idiom is permanently in our language, and similar expressions exist in many other languages. The experience of "stretching the imagination" will always be a relevant and a positive aspect of human existence and social interaction.

Site & Environs

The sculpture will be suitable for any of the three sites in Rundle Mall. It can be placed cross-ways, or length-ways, or on a diagonal to the Mall axis

in order not to obstruct access for busy pedestrians and service/emergency vehicles. The early morning and setting sun shining on and through the sculpture will produce intriguing shadows of unusual facial features, cast directly onto the Mall pavement. The sculpture is visually satisfying viewed close-up, as well as from afar.

Material, Maintenance & Climate

Bronze is a sturdy and durable material that requires no maintenance. It is unaffected by the climatic extremes that might occur in Adelaide. The proposed sculpture will be anchored to the pavement at three broad surfaces (at the base of each wrist and at the mid-point of the lower lip). The design of the sculpture is robust, with no sharp protrusions that would endanger the public, nor "tunnels" that can entrap limbs. The sculpture has no places in which water, urine, etc. can accumulate. Owing to its wide apertures, continual curvatures and strong cross-bars, the sculpture will be difficult to deface with graffiti, or to vandalise.

I have had considerable experience producing bronze sculptures in a foundry specialising in fine art, and am familiar with the techniques and handwork required for the casting of monumental sculptures.

Public Interaction

On account of its human features, the sculpture is instantly recognisable and therefore immediately allows the observer to "play" mentally with it, even at a distance. The sculpture will invite closer inspection, and will be pleasant to the touch on all surfaces. As well as conceptually, the public will be able to interact physically (and safely) with the sculpture because of its low elevation, narrow shape, and firm mounting. In a crowded Mall, the sculpture can be appreciated from a close-up view because of its accessible size, intrinsic details and overall shape. It will be interesting for people to explore the detailed and changing contours in the features of the face and hands, as well as the convolutions of the "mind" behind the face. In other words, the sculpture will offer a mental and a tactile experience for people of all ages and capacities.

Families can have a lot of fun with the sculpture. For example, it is easy to create "temporary eyes" by placing objects such as children's balls, etc. in different places in the hollow eye-sockets. The varying expressions that can be created are limited only by the imagination: furtive sideways glances, looks of surprise, stares of disbelief, boredom, shock; cross-eyed, squint-eyed, etc., etc. Simply crouching behind the nose and moving one's fists around in the sockets can bring the sculpture to life by "rolling the eyes"! Little children will be able to climb through the large openings in the "hollow cheeks", with the security of the bar of the lower eyelids as a hand-hold. Older children and adults would be able to clamber over the sculpture and sit astride the brow. Parents could photograph or video their children, tourists their friends, peeping through the sockets and having memorable fun with the sculpture.

RUNDLE MALL SCULPTURE COMPETITION**ENTRY FORM**

Name: Susan Dorothea White
 Address: 278 Annandale Street
 Annandale, NSW
 Postcode: 2038
 Phone: (02) 9660 5042 Fax: (02) 9660 5170

Details enclosed;

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Concept drawings | <input type="checkbox"/> | number of drawings | <input type="text" value="3"/> |
| 2. | Explanatory text | <input type="checkbox"/> | number of documents | <input type="text" value="2"/> |
| 3. | Curriculum vitae | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 4. | Stamped self addressed envelope | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

I confirm that;

- I am the owner of the copyright in the enclosed drawings,
- to the best of my ability I estimate the sculpture can be constructed within the proposed budget of \$70,000.00.

Signed: Date: / /1997

All Entries must be submitted by;
3_{pm} on Tuesday June 24th
[no late entries will be considered]

Competition entries should be sent to;

RUNDLE MALL SCULPTURE COMPETITION
 The Corporation of the City of Adelaide
 Tender Box
 5 Pirie St.
 Adelaide 5000

The Adelaide City Council Tender Envelope
 must be attached to the outside of all entries

For additional information contact;
 Brecknock Consulting - Phone 08 8224 0137 or Fax 08 8203 5200