MONUMENT FOR ORCHEL SEAMAN NING
JOHN REARDON
Monument for Chelsea Manning

Chelsea Manning is a former army intelligence analyst who released almost 750,000 military and diplomatic documents into the public domain via WikiLeaks in 2010 including US military war logs about the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, private cables from the State Department and assessments of Guantánamo prisoners, revealing systematic human rights abuses and war crimes. She served seven years of a 35-year prison sentence, and was freed after former president Barack Obama commuted her sentence. At the time of writing, she is again in prison for her continued refusal to testify before a grand jury against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

Monument for Chelsea Manning is a bronze bust of Chelsea Manning as well as a project about the ongoing attempt to install a piece of public art in Haverfordwest, Wales, where Chelsea’s mother was born and continues to live and where Chelsea attended the town’s secondary school for several years. The bronze bust is currently on temporary loan to Conway Hall Ethical Society, where it will remain until a permanent site in Haverfordwest can be found.

Timeline:

2017 - Meeting with Chelsea’s family, Haverfordwest, Wales.
2017 - Presentation of project to Welsh Assembly, Cardiff, Wales.
2018 - Conversation about project with Professor Rosalyn Deutsche, New York, USA • link: po.st/artsjournal
2018 - Working on clay head and shoulders, studio, Berlin, Germany
2019 - Making bronze cast, foundry, Kent
2019 - Installation of bronze bust in Conway Hall Library, London
2019 - Planning application for public sculpture in Swan Square, Haverfordwest, Wales

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