

Laura White

Baroque Sprawl (2024)

Scaffolding sheeting, bungees and aluminium frame, 400cm x 950cm x 70cm.

A Meadow Arts and Hereford College of Arts Commission for No.1 Station Approach, Hereford.



A new public artwork, titled *Baroque Sprawl*, has been installed at No.1 Station Approach in Hereford, marking the culmination of a collaborative three-year public art programme led by Meadow Arts and Hereford College of Arts.

Drawing inspiration from the dynamic and flowing style of the Baroque period, artist Laura White's creation pays homage to Bernini's famous sculpture, *Apollo and Daphne* (1622 - 1625) which is represented on a large billboard on one end of the building. Bernini's sculpture depicts Daphne, a beautiful and fiercely independent nymph, evading Apollo's amorous pursuit by changing into a tree. Bernini's powerful sculpture captures the moment when Daphne begins this transformation.

On the opposite end of the building, White's installation echoes Bernini's masterpiece too, but injects an element of unpredictability while remaining rooted in plain materials. The fabric that weaves through the undulating metal frame is white scaffolding sheeting, a product used on construction sites the world over. Using this humble material, the artist grounds the monumental sculpture in the every day and connects it to the fabric of the city. Positioned in this location, on one of the main arteries leading in and out of the city, the work establishes a vibrant conversation between the city and the magnificent Herefordshire landscape surrounding it.

Laura White said:

"When the sculpture was raised off the ground to be installed onto the wall – only then did I see it in its entirety. Making the work on the ground, applying layers of scaffolding sheeting to a gigantic metal frame was a challenge. I was relieved and extremely happy to see it when it was up – it was so much MORE than I had imagined it would be."



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Anne de Charmant, Artistic Director at Meadow Arts said:

“With this artwork, Laura White continues her adventurous explorations into the use of materials and their powers of transformation. In the same way, this piece of public art will temporarily transform our perception of the building at No1 Station Approach.”

Dr Daniel Pryde-Jarman, Head of School of Fine Art at Hereford College of Arts said:

“Baroque Sprawl is such a fitting culmination of this 3-year partnership project between HCA and Meadow Arts. We are so happy to have been able to host Laura on campus at HCA whilst she put this large-scale sculpture together, and art students from a number of courses have been able to see the work evolve over time and interact with the artist to gain new insights. The result is an exciting and ambitious statement for the importance of sculpture in the city, prompting us to reflect upon the nature of our relationship with materials, mythology, and the landscape around us.”

The temporary work is the third bold public art commission for No.1 Station Approach. The project is one of fifteen launched in the city thanks to the support of Stronger Hereford, which aims to make the city greener, fairer, creative, digital and more connected. With support from HM Government’s Towns Fund to help Hereford blossom into a richly creative, digital, connected and highly-skilled place to live, work, study, visit and invest.

Image credit: Laura White, Baroque Sprawl (2024). Image courtesy of Meadow Arts. Photographer, Tegen Kimbley.

Images

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Meadow Arts

Meadow Arts is an inspirational contemporary visual arts charity delivering ambitious and accessible projects in unexpected, often rural places. Meadow Arts is generously supported using public funding from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation. www.meadowarts.org

Hereford College of Arts

Hereford College of Arts is the home of arts education in Herefordshire, providing a platform for the next generation of creatives to launch their own exciting careers in the creative industries. <https://www.hca.ac.uk/>



Laura White

Laura has a materially engaged practice, that cuts across a studio practice (primarily sculpture), writing and fieldwork. Laura focuses on process and how objects/things come into being, with an emphasis on the handling of materials, from stable material such as ceramics and concrete to the changeable matter of clay, bread dough, silicone rubber and rusting metal. Exploring and responding to material behaviours and her personal relationships to them, alongside their historical and social contexts. It is important for her to be led by her materials and to collaborate with them, rather than imposing herself on them. Meadow Arts has worked with Laura White previously as part of the 2019 exhibition [The Precious Clay](#) at the Museum of Royal Worcester where she presented [White Mud](#).

No.1 Station Approach Public Art Project

The Station Approach project is a 3-year collaborative project led jointly by Meadow Arts and Hereford College of Arts to reinforce Hereford's commitment to creativity and culture through a rolling programme of significant contemporary public art commissioning. It is one of fifteen projects launched in the city thanks to the support of Stronger Hereford, that aims to make the city a greener, fairer, creative, digital and more connected. With support from HM Government's Towns Fund to help Hereford blossom into a richly creative, digital, connected and highly-skilled place to live, work, study, visit and invest.

Stronger Hereford

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