

## Press Release

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### BAROQUE-INSPIRED ARTWORK TRANSFORMS STUDENT ACCOMMODATION BUILDING IN HEREFORD

No.1 Station Approach, Hereford, HR1 1BB  
Public Launch 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 5pm

#### [Images](#)

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 the large billboard on the Aylestone Hill 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 everyday 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.

**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.”

A free public launch event will take place at 5pm on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Hereford College of Arts, College Road Campus. The event will provide the opportunity to meet artist Laura White and learn more about the inspiration behind the work and the fabrication of this monumental installation. Booking essential, find out more on Meadow Arts’ website ([meadowarts.org](https://meadowarts.org)).

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.



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**Image credit:**

Laura White, *Baroque Sprawl* (2024), No.1 station Approach. Image courtesy of Meadow Arts. Photographer, Tegen Kimbley.



## NOTES TO EDITORS

[Logos](#)

[Images](#)

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[Baroque Sprawl Public Launch, 5pm 16th May 2024](#)

Hereford College of Arts, College Rd Campus

### 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](http://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**

15 trailblazing projects transforming the city of Hereford. Thanks to Stronger Hereford's successful bid to the Government's Towns Fund for £22.4million, we will be opening up fantastic new opportunities for all ages across culture, sport, skills, growing, greener travel and the riverside.

<https://strongerhereford.co.uk/>