

# PARK ART in Haringey Transcript

**0:01** Audio

[Music]

**0:25** Elena Pippou

*PARK ART* kind of started about a year ago, where I was thinking that London had no sculpture park anywhere, and then thought, why can't we have one in Haringey?

**0:40** Emma Underhill

We were invited by Haringey Council to work with them on a project that would bring high quality sculpture into various parks across Haringey. And at the time, we were actually really interested in developing an idea for a temporary pop-up sculpture park for London that could occupy various green spaces across the city. So this seemed like a really fantastic opportunity to try out that idea. The main space of the project is Bruce Castle Park and we worked with Ben Long to create a giant scaffold lion.

**1:14** Ben Long

When I got the commission to make something at Bruce Castle, I was thinking about maybe a regal subject such as a lion that would tie in very nicely with the architecture. And the stories of Robert the Bruce having been here, and his emblem was a lion. So this seemed to fit with that. And also, just because there's many monuments around London that we see where with lions on them. And this is kind of like a contemporary monument. So instead of making something out of stone, or bronze. I've made it out of scaffolding because it's the material that speaks of like the flux of the city and the the rapid evolution that takes place in a place like London.

**1:58** Robert Waite

You may know Bruce Castle gets its name from the DeBruce family who came over after the Norman Conquest at the invitation of William the Conqueror. The heraldic emblem of Robert the Bruce was the lion and to have the lion outside creative so imaginatively by Ben Long, giving people an idea, not just about art, what can be asked and what art may be, it also gives them an interest in the history of the building.

### **2:23 Audience Member**

I think it's magnificent. Shame is not permanent. It's quite remarkable.

### **2:28 Audience Member**

We've loved it. It's really nice because it's our park and it's come alive with new and interesting things.

### **2:35 Emma Underhill**

We were really keen to kind of get a breadth of sculptural intervention. So not just thinking about sculpture as a physical object, but also as sound and light. So we invited Martin Richman to look at the Hawk Tower, which is in Bruce Castle Park, and he developed a light installation, and collaborated with a sound artist Charlie Kerr to create a soundscape to accompany that.

### **3:00 Martin Richman**

It was a very seductive space for the sort of work that I produce. It's a tall, thin space. And so, the idea of a long thin mobile hanging in the space seemed to suit very well. The mobile is made of a number of what I call dichroic blades. And dichroic is a great word meaning two colours. And what it does is transmit one colour and reflects its complimentary opposite colour. So for every single one of these, with each light source, one gets two panels of light floating around the room. These elements here, start looking not unlike birds in flight, some more so than others. And as they turn and twist, they take on sort of almost childlike drawings of birds in flight. An important aspect of this installation is how the soundscape adds certain qualities to the perception of the place and the piece. I know that Charlie's started off with a Tudor dance. He's then recorded sounds of modern-day Tottenham and mixed them together to make a sort of sonar of a soundscape. So the quiet turning and floating of the colour and light of the mobile is echoed surprisingly often within the quality of the soundscape.

### **4:34 Audience Member**

It's a lovely park and the art installations are really beautiful. I love the one, the one in the round tower. I think that's really lovely.

### **4:45 Emma Underhill**

We were looking at a project that would evolve over lots of different spaces in the borough, and our main focus was Bruce Castle Park, but there's also Finsbury Park,

which is over on the other side of the borough. And an important part of the project was actually to try and encourage people to travel from east to west and visit parts of the borough that they don't know already, and there's a fantastic organisation called Furtherfield who have recently set up a gallery in the middle of Finsbury Park. So we partnered with them and they commissioned Michael Szpakowski to create a sound installation as part of *PARK ART*.

### **5:19 Michael Szpakowski**

This piece is a generative base, which means that the music that the instrumental sounds, there is a database of about 250 loops, which I wrote. They're all loosely in the same mode, which means they all fit together quite nicely because there are various drones and various repeated patterns. The computer programme that I wrote pulls these loops in at random so that it creates an ongoing piece of music which never exactly repeats itself. The other computer has a database of about 400 grabs of local people recorded in this park; young people from a local primary school recalling childhood rhymes in as many languages as we can manage from the borough, so it's a kind of homage really to the fantastic diversity of contemporary London.

### **6:11 Audio**

[*Child singing*]

### **6:26 Laura Harford**

We recruited and trained 15 volunteers and two project supervisors to be part of *PARK ART in Haringey*, they were all young and unemployed for the summer. And they're all obviously from the borough and really really, really excited about the fact that it was happening in their local area.

### **6:44 Tichelle Norman**

I've been brought up in Tottenham all my life, and it's wonderful to see modern artwork in Haringey. Growing up we've never had anything like this. So to you know, see it's really exciting and engaging.

### **6:56 Elena Pippou**

We are really, really proud of this project. We're really really proud to have such amazing artists. It's just been great to have these people in Haringey doing what they do and doing it amazingly.

7:10 Audio

[*Music*]