

Helen Denerley's scrap metal sculpture is recognised across Scotland and beyond. Her giraffes, Dreaming Spires, at the top of Leith Walk have become an Edinburgh landmark but she's also completed important commissions as far east as Hokkaido in Japan and as remote as South Georgia in Antarctica.



There is a magical quality to her work that makes it so loved at home and respected abroad. Life is brought back to abandoned metal – old picks, ploughs, exhausts; whatever flotsam we throw away, and this is done with breath taking lightness of touch and vision. The line down an animal's neck and back is fluid as a Matisse ink sketch, and like the best paintings there is empty (negative) space that becomes as important as what is there. Conversely, what Denerley leaves on is wonderful. There is often an asymmetrical quirk remaining from the scrap's previous life - a bicycle bell, a patch of red paint or a bleeding nipple. These bring the past into the present giving character to the sculpture. The more you look the more you see. A cow's backside (two shovels) is slow and lumbering like an oxen; camel's eyes are small and angry; the deer's feet are agile and ready to run at any moment. Everything feels like it is moving at its natural rhythm. Denerley's next major show, when she explores "flight or fight" in the animal kingdom is one not to be missed. This previews at Kilmorack Gallery on the 20th March.

Work planned for this show include an amur leopard prowling on high; a pack of hunting dogs; large birds of prey including an eagle swooping and an owl watching. There will also be animals more prone to flight; the gazelles and small deer, alert and quick. Denerley always impresses; especially when showing in Kilmorack Gallery's beautiful interior which she will make full use of in this show. It will be a powerful exhibition energised by the circle of prey and predator.

Biography

1956 Born Roslin, Midlothian
1977 Graduated from Grays School of Art, Aberdeen
1995 Elected Professional Member of the Society of Scottish Artists

Commissions

2008 Duloch Park, Dunfermline, Work for a new housing scheme and shopping centre.
2008 Hugh Miller Museum, Cromarty, Ammonite.
2007 Stirling University Courtyard, 3 Oyster Catchers.
2006 Glan Clwyd Hospital, N Wales. Humming Bird Memorial Sculpture
2005 Omni building, Edinburgh, Dreaming Spires. 2 larger than life giraffes on the pavement.
2004,2005 Eniwa Garden Project, Hokkaido, Japan, Dragon Railings, arches and birds for a salvage garden.
2004 Horizon Scotland, Forres. Sheep and lamb. Hot Dogs. Birds for new Enterprise building
2000 Lonach Hall, Strathdon, Staircase
1999 Clackmannanshire Council, Tillycultry, The Devonside Sculptures
1999 Alford Academy Sculpture Garden, The Alford Panther
1997 Safeway PLC, Inverurie, "A Flying Visit"
1996 Duncan & Todd, Opticians, Aberdeen, Spectacle Sculpture
1994 Princess Royal Trust For Carers, Aberdeen, Commemorative Piece
1994 Govan Housing Association, Glasgow, The Govan Milestone
1992 The Douglas Haston Recorder, Aberdeen, Sculpture Trophy
1991 Grampian Regional Council, Inverurie, The Inverurie Sundial
1988 Lord Cowdray, Dunecht, Lead Restoration Work
1985 Aberdeen District Council, Relief Panels
1984 Owlies Restaurant, Aberdeen, Applied Sculpture
1982 Dan Smedvig & Co Ltd, Aberdeen, Boardroom Panel
1981 Atlantic Drilling, Aberdeen
1980 Belmar Engineering, Aberdeen
1980 Carronhall Engineering, Stovehaven, The Carronhall Dinosaur
1980 Aberdeen District Council, Animals in Scrap
1979 William Wilson & CO, Aberdeen
1978 Aberdeen District Council, The Hazlehead Pterodactyl
1977 Aberdeen District Council, Musical Play Sculpture

Private Commissions Worldwide

Solo and Two-Artist Exhibition
2008 Gleneagles, Sculptures in the garden.
2008 COAST Festival, Banff, Denerley Sculpture Park
2007 Beaux Arts, Bath, The Space Between.
2006 Heinzel Gallery, Aberdeen, Between the Lines.
2003 Kilmorack Gallery, Beaulieu, Hare Moon and Sky Hawk
2002 Milton Gallery, Aberdeenshire, Between the Desert and the Deep Blue Sea
2001 Heinzel Gallery, Aberdeen, Cabras and Perros
2000 Champs Hill, West Sussex, Wild Wood-
1999 Milton Gallery, Aberdeenshire, A Beast Seldom Seen
1999 Timespan Gallery, Highlands, Time and Tide
1998 Heinzel Gallery, Aberdeen, Town and Country
1998 Kilmorack Gallery, Beaulieu, Running with Wolves
1997 Conoco UK LTD, Aberdeen, Durer's Rhinoceros
1997 Heinzel Gallery, Aberdeen, On Display
1996 The Kenny Gallery, Galway, Faith, Hope and Clarity
1996 Brown's Gallery, Tain, Highland Arts Festival
1995 Brown's Gallery, Tain, Mind over Metal
1995 Woodwick house, Orkney, Beauty & the Beast
1995 Heinzel Gallery, Aberdeen, Twa Craws
1994 Warehouse Gallery, Banff, Objects of Desire
1993 Riverside Gallery, Stonehaven, Spirit of the Wilderness
1993 The Ulster Arts Club, Belfast, The Sculptor and the Weaver
1992 Strathfest, Aberdeenshire, Birds and Beasties
1990 Strathfest, Aberdeenshire, What Lies Lurking
1982 Artspace Galleries, Aberdeen, photographs and Artefacts from Uganda

Group Exhibitions

2007/2009 Touring Britain, Seeing Dragons in the Clouds.
2005 The Gallery in Cork Street, London, Kilmorack Gallery
2005 Beaux Arts, Bath
2006, 2005 1996-97 London Contemporary Art Fair
2004 Art Parks International, Guernsey
2004 Philharmonic Arts Centre, Naples, Florida
2003 Q2 Gallery, Dundee,
2003 Royal Glasgow Institute, Annual Exhibition. (Prize winner)
2003 Group Exhibition at Champs Hill, West Sussex.
2003 Invited artist at Burghley Sculpture Garden, Lincolnshire.
2003 Art Outside, Savill Garden, Windsor Park.
2003 F.T. Sabin Gallery, London, Outdoor touring exhibition.
2002 F.T. Sabin Gallery, London, Sculpture Under English Skies
2001 Champs Hill, West Sussex, The Hair of the Dog
2001 Ramster Gardens, Surrey, Contemporary Garden Sculpture
2001 Duff House, Banff, On the Edge
2001 The Lennox Gallery, London, Contemporary Highland Art
2008-96 Glasgow Art Fair, Glasgow
2008-91 Scottish Society of Artists, Annual Exhibition, Edinburgh
1999 West of England Art Fair, Bath
1998 Ghent Art Fair, Belgium
1997 City Arts Centre, Edinburgh and touring UK, Animal Magic
1997 Edinburgh Festival, Edinburgh
1997 John Martin of London, On a Grand Scale
1997 The Scottish Gallery, The Artful Garden
1997 Norrie Toth Studios (SSA), Gullane
1996 Mayfest (SSA), Glasgow, Brave Art
1996 Smith Art Gallery (SSA), Stirling, A Sense of Place
1995 The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh, Art in the Garden
1995 Art Connoisseur, London, The Beltane Spirit
1995-93 Collective Gallery, Edinburgh
1995-94 Tolquhon Gallery, Tarves - The Painted Petal, Art in the Garden
1995 Artspace Galleries, Aberdeen, Sunset Song
1994 The Kenny Gallery, Galway, heroes & Heroines
1993 The Kenny Gallery, Galway, On the Subject of Drink
1979 Aberdeen Art Centre, Aberdeen

Events

2002 "Flight of Fancy", A British romantic comedy featuring sculpture as part of the set. Starring Jason Flemyng and directed by David Fairman.
2001 "Boundaries" A collaborative Iron Pouring event with Professor George Beasley, broadcast live to The International Sculpture Conference, Pittsburg,
1998 "Running with Wolves", A cross artform performance commissioned by the Highland Festival combining sculpture, painting, dance, music and lighting.
2004 Invited by the government of South Georgia to make a life size whale from the scrap in an old whaling station. Visited the island in January to carry out a feasibility study and while there produced a small whale.
2006 "The exquisite cupola" A furnace made by several international artists for the Iron conference in Ironbridge

Forthcoming

March 2009, Solo Exhibition at Kilmorack Gallery, Beaulieu.
2010, Solo Exhibition at The Milton Gallery, Crathes.

