

COMMISSIONS IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND 2000-2003



**Uniform,
Lindsay Duncanson**

Artist Lindsay Duncanson was invited by Commissions North to produce a series of photographs that paired local people together with new public artworks in the region.





Commissioning

The North East's legacy of major landmark sculptures has firmly embedded the principle that artists have a central role within the creative design, building and regeneration process. The commitment to engage with artists is now widely established, however the next challenge is to develop new artists' commissions, which ensure innovation, creative risk, and fresh ideas are supported in order to increase the region's reputation as a centre of excellence for commissioning.

This publication aims to capture the diversity of ideas, designs and commissions in the North East of England from 2000 to 2003.

Andrew Dixon,
Regional Executive Director



**Angel,
Antony Gormley OBE,
Gateshead 1998**



**Bottle of Notes,
Claes Oldenburg and
Coosje van Bruggen,
Middlesbrough 1993**



**Train,
David Mach,
Darlington 1997**



**Conversation Piece,
Juan Muñoz,
South Shields 1999**

ART ON THE RIVERSIDE

Art on the Riverside is the largest programme of public art in the UK, funded by a £3.5 million National Lottery grant and £2.7 million from the public and private sectors. Since 1995 the project has enabled numerous artists' commissions within the riverside regeneration of the Tyne and Wear across North Tyneside, Newcastle, Sunderland and South Tyneside.



Spirit of South Shields

Irene Brown, Market Dock, South Shields ^Á

The 'Spirit of South Shields' harbours a ship safely in one arm whilst raising her other arm in greeting. Commissioned within the new housing development at Market Dock the sculpture has now been adopted as South Tyneside's image of regeneration.



Landing Lights

Martin Richman, Customs House, South Shields ^È

Following his 'Landing Lights' commission to illuminate of the South Shields Ferry Terminal, Martin Richman has produced a number of dramatic lighting exhibitions at the Customs House Gallery and is due to complete a creative lighting scheme for the Old Town Hall in 2003.

Fleet

Irene Brown, Market Dock, South Shields ^È

The flooded dry dock at Market Dock will be the arena for seven highly polished stainless steel sculptures of nineteenth century collier brigs. Irene Brown has taken South Tyneside's historic ship symbol and reclaimed it as a cultural icon for the new riverside.

Flash

Charles Quick, Hebburn Riverside, South Tyneside

Charles Quick's proposal aims to provide a visual landmark which will become part of the urban topography of Tyneside at night by creating a sequence of large light flashes across Hebburn Riverside Park which are inspired by the work of VA TECH Reyrolle who have been testing and developing innovative electrical switchgear on the site for over 100 years.



High Tide

Karl Fisher, Craig Knowles, Colin Wilbourn and writer Chaz Brenchley, Sunderland Yacht Club

High Tide is the last sculpture from the St Peter's Sculpture Project and combines a poetic text with seven cast concrete hemispheres arranged in a crescent arc, just above the high water mark on Roker beach, Sunderland. The ten year project was initiated by Helix Arts and has demonstrated that local artists working with the community can make a unique cultural contribution to the regeneration process.



Dudes

Perminder Kaur, International Ferry Terminal, North Shields

Perminder Kaur's thirteen brightly coloured figures aim to represent the essence of the Ferry Terminal – moving, travelling and discovering.

It is proposed to extend the project to Bergen, Gothenburg and Ljmuiden where the figures will be installed in each port to represent the partnership of countries involved in sponsoring the project via DFDS and Fjordline.

ARTS BUILDINGS



The Sage Gateshead

The Sage Gateshead occupies one of the most dramatic urban sites in Europe. The magnificent Norman Foster building commissioned by Gateshead Council will be an outstanding facility for all kinds of live music, and a pioneering centre for discovery and music education.

Five core strands of work covering all kinds of music under one common management include Northern Sinfonia and Folkworks, who were original founding partners in the project. ^Å



The Gateshead Millennium Bridge

The Gateshead Millennium Bridge – the first opening bridge to be built across the River Tyne for more than 100 years – has attracted world-wide attention thanks to its unique tilting design. The bridge provides a footpath and cycle-way linking the ambitious new arts and cultural developments at Gateshead Quays on the south bank with Newcastle Quayside.

The world-first design is the latest addition to the Tyne's famous collection of bridges and was designed by Wilkinson Eyre Architects and consulting engineers Gifford & Partners Ltd, and constructed by Gateshead based Harbour & General.

In 2002 The Gateshead Millennium Bridge won the RIBA Stirling Prize for 'Building of the Year'. ^Æ



BALTIC

Meccano Bridges, Chris Burden ^Æ

Homage to Blake, Jaume Plensa ^Æ

BALTIC is the major new international centre for contemporary art at the heart of the regeneration of Gateshead Quays on the River Tyne. Housed in a 1950s grain silo the dramatic conversion by architect Dominic Williams has created a stunning space for the production, presentation and experience of contemporary art.

With no permanent collection, a programme that places a heavy emphasis on commissions, invitations to artists and the work of artists-in-residence, BALTIC is a new breed of public art space, an Art Factory that will present a constantly changing programme of exhibitions, events and commissions.



ARTS BUILDINGS



Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

Mowbray Gates, Wendy Ramshaw OBE ^{ix}

Monolith, William Pye ^{ix}

Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens is a landmark project for the development of the city and features the largest public art programme so far funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Winter Gardens designed by Napper Architects features both William Pye's 'Monolith', a 10-meter tall stainless steel water sculpture and the contemporary 'Mowbray Gates', which link the Museum to Mowbray Gardens conceived by Sunderland born jewellery designer Wendy Ramshaw OBE.





Gala Theatre, Durham

Counterweight, Simon Watkinson ^{BB}

Seating, Kathryn Hodgkinson ^B

The Visitor, Ron Haselden ^A


Durham City's stunning new Gala Theatre was designed by architects McCormack Jamieson Prichard, and has enabled innovative new artists' commissions including an interactive digital visitors' book, cast glass, concrete seating and a kinetic sculpture of steel, light and coal.

ARTS BUILDINGS

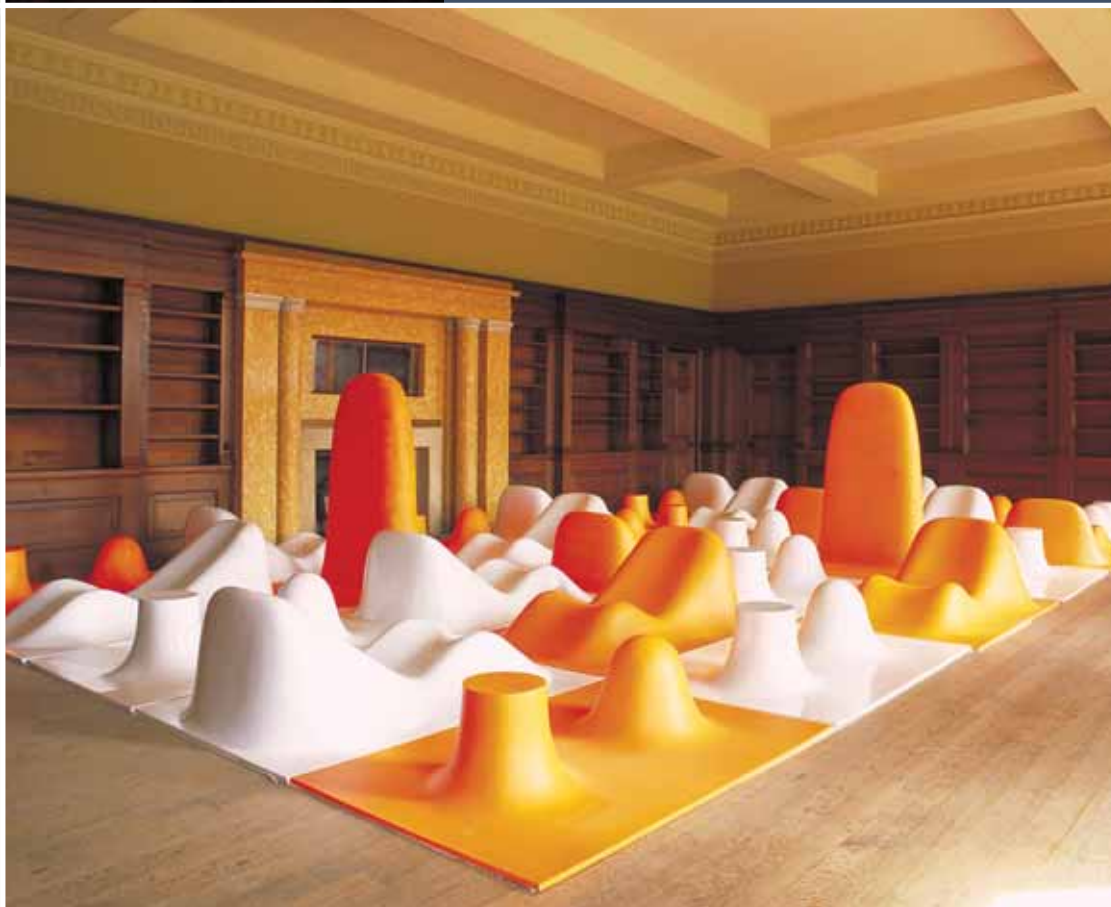


Wallington Hall

Fountain of the jilted lover,
Malcolm Webster 


Brief Encounter,
Ryders Architects 


The Dodgy Clutch Theatre Company brought a spectacular lantern-lit procession and six Fantastic Follies to the grounds of the National Trust's Wallington Hall to celebrate the magical atmosphere and frivolity of its original owner and designer of the grounds, Sir Walter Calverley Blackett.



Belsay Hall

Chair #1, Ansel Thompson 

Pleasurescape, Karim Rashid 


Eclipse, Langlands and Bell 


Following the influential Sitooteries project at Belsay Hall, English Heritage's programme of contemporary art and design continued to challenge and transform the unfurnished 19th century Greek revival mansion with 'Sitting Pretty', the installation of contemporary chairs by an international collection of designers.






Bishop Auckland General Hospital

Stone Courtyard, David Paton 

Glass, Mara Chemotherapy Unit, Sue Woolhouse 

Fountain Courtyard, Stephen Newby 


Cast Glass, Reception, Kathryn Hodgkinson 


A wide variety of hospital staff were involved in selecting the artists who were commissioned for the new PFI hospital. This has led to the creation of new creative spaces by five artists within the main courtyards and waiting rooms.






James Cook Hospital Healing Arts Project

Spinal Injuries Unit, Bridget Jones 

Paediatric Out Patient Play Table, Lee and Jill Brewster 


The South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust committed to a significant programme of artists commissions at an early stage within Middlesbrough's new PFI hospital, and together with architects HLM have delivered diverse commissions and an ongoing live arts programme, which highlight the therapeutic values of a well designed environment.

Dryburn Hospital

Glass canopy, Martin Donlin 




Sedgefield Community Hospital

Gilbert Ward 

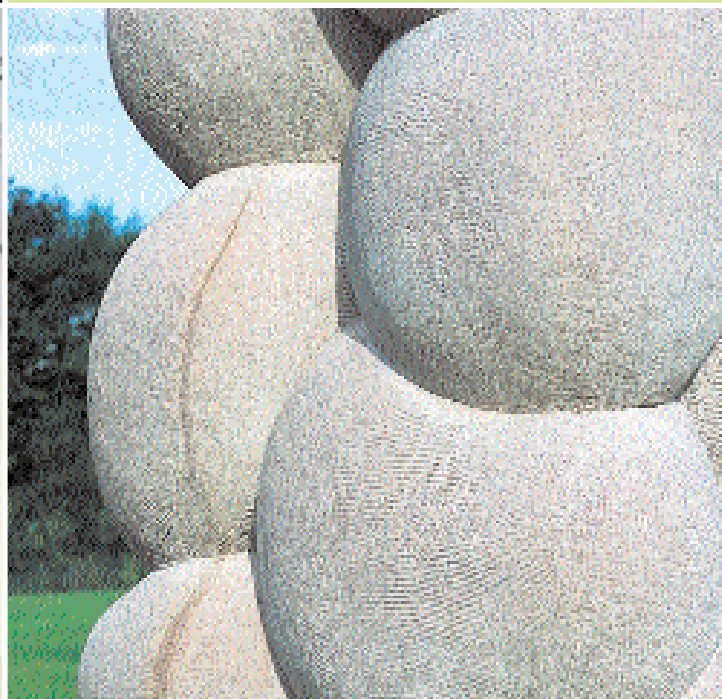
Mike Stiff 



Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust

Images of Trust, Ikuko Tsuchiya 

Images of Trust is a joint photographic project between Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust and Northumbria University. The project aims to document healthcare at the turn of the 21st century, and create images that will provide important archive material about healthcare processes at a time of great change within the NHS.





Newcastle General Hospital

Table, David Arnold [ⓘ]

Northern Centre for Cancer Treatment, Newcastle General Hospital has established 'The Room for You', a space where artists in residence can work alongside patients and staff to develop visual arts projects and new artworks for the hospital.

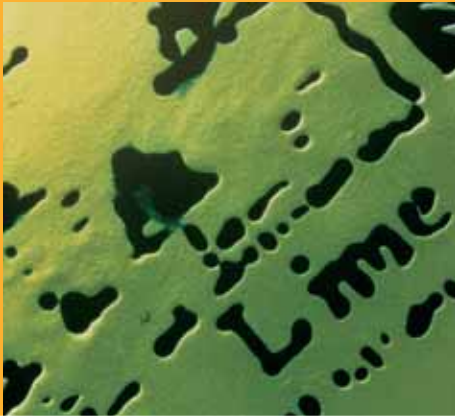


Henry Wellcome Building for Neuroecology

Dyslexics, Katharine Dowson [ⓘ]

Myriad, Katharine Dowson [ⓘ]

'Myriad' is artist Katharine Dowson's most ambitious work, with over 4000 optical lenses linked together to form a suspended transparent curtain within the University's new building for award-winning research into brain and behaviour. The building features a changing programme of artworks.



Steenbergs Glass

Effie Burns 

Four artists based in the Ouseburn Valley worked with Home Housing and Byker Bridge Housing Association to produce new glass commissions for the new community housing created within the restored warehouse.



World Fruit

Andrew McKeown 

The brief for Ayresome Gardens asked for a series of artworks which reflected the diverse communities that surround and use the community park. Taking the themes of cooking and food the artist spent time with local residents to create exotic cast iron fruits and vegetables which are playfully sited under trees throughout the park.



The Roundy

Colin Rose 

‘The Roundy’ was commissioned as a memorial to the mining industry by residents group Ushaw Moor First which campaigns for improvements for the City of Durham village. Traditionally a ‘Roundy’ was a miner’s term for a large lump of coal, the Ushaw Moor Roundy stands at over four meters high and weighs over 14 tons!




Space for Sport and the Arts

Glass, Sue Woolhouse 

Space for Sports and the Arts is enabling 11 local authorities in the North East to build new creative spaces within 48 Primary Schools. A range of artists are working with architects and schools to create integrated artworks for the new buildings. Artist Sue Woolhouse is creating glass for four schools in Redcar and Cleveland.

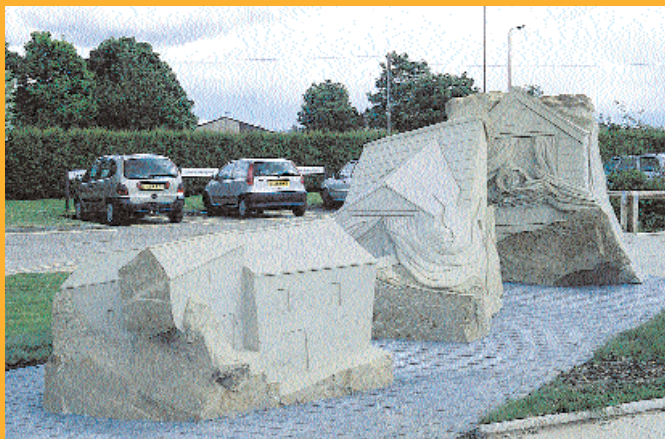


Coquet Early Years Excellence Centre

Soft Play, Bridget Mary Kennedy 

Glass, Effie Burns 

Northumberland's new centre for pre-school children has commissioned artists to create furniture, glass, creative play equipment and sound sculpture to provide a stimulating and friendly environment for children and families.



Greenfield School Community and Arts College

Artists Colin Wilbourn and David Patons' lyrical stone carving at the building's entrance is one of five artists commissions within the region's first specialist arts college in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham. ¹



Westmoor Primary

Sculptor Richard Caink created a series of play features for the newly built school in North Tyneside. ²



National Association of Youth Theatres, Darlington

This Regional Arts Lottery Programme (RALP) funded commission aimed to transform a suite of rooms in Darlington Arts Centre into a functional headquarters for NAYT. Artist Roger Dickinson's work included objects and drawings based on theatrical role-play and costumes to create a hybrid office and performance space. ³



Northern Rock Foundation

A team of glass artists – Effie Burns, Kathryn Hodgkinson and Gavin Marshall – have collaborated with Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall Ltd, Chartered Architects to produce a series of cast and etched glass details throughout the late Victorian church which has been converted as the new headquarters for the charitable Northern Rock Foundation. ¹

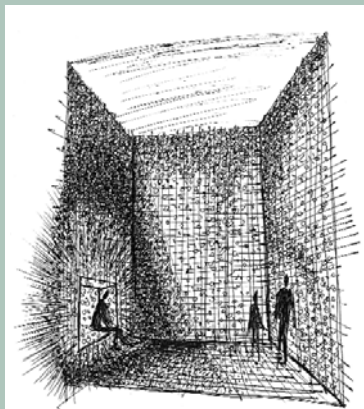


Prudhoe Waterworld

Tynedale District Council received RALP funding to commission artists Maddi Nicholson and Stuart Bastik to design a unique soft play environment. 'Insides Out' consists of a giant interactive human body on three levels, complete with spinning blood cells, climbing fingers, a tongue slide, inflatable rib cage and giant head lice. ²

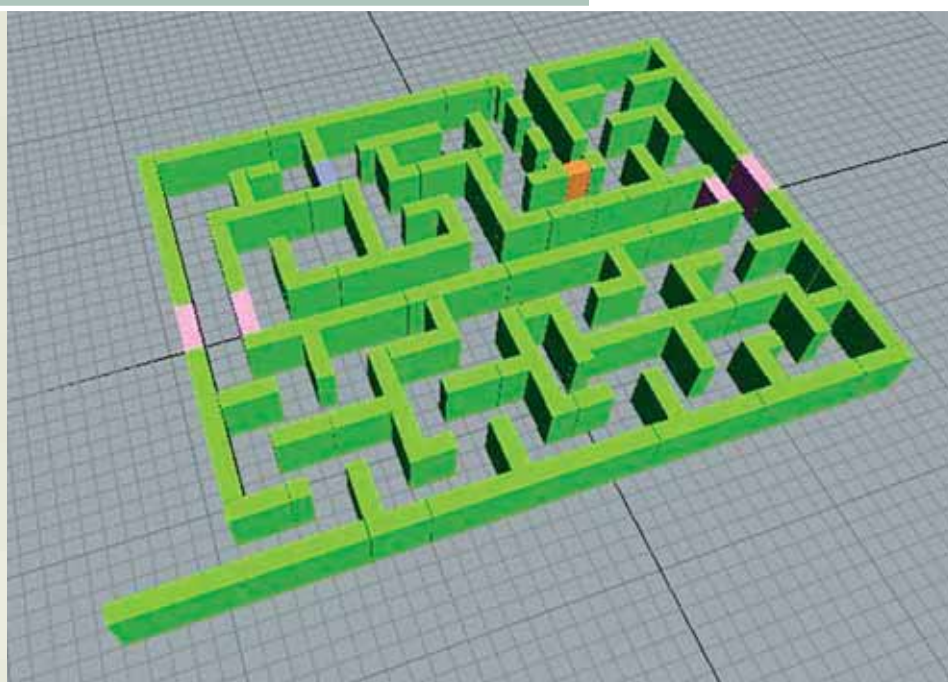


ENVIRONMENT



Kielder Water and Forest Park

The Kielder Partnership's commitment to visual art began in 1995 and has now evolved into an ongoing programme of Art and Architecture projects.



Minotaur, Nick Coombe and Shona Kitchen ¹ ²

'Minotaur' will be a contemporary maze sited by Kielder Castle which combines wire gabion cages filled with local whinstone with a central chamber lined with turquoise glass.

The Italian Tower, Nathan Coley ³

Produced during his Year of the Artist Residency, Nathan Coley's temporary sculpture was sited in Kielder Water opposite Leaplish Waterside Park.



The Samling Foundation ⁴

The Samling Foundation funded five young artists to produce temporary commissions whilst in residence with school students at Kielder.

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva used floating screens of cress to create 'Road to Nowhere' and demonstrated that the 'Land and the Samling' project could facilitate educational and unexpected interventions within the vast Kielder landscape.





Durham Gateway

Peter Fink

The new bridge at Wynyard marks a boundary between County Durham and Teeside and the artist worked with County Durham engineers and Sustrans to create a sculptural intervention for the new suspension bridge which now provides a cycle link over the A689. ¹⁸



Darlington WestPark

Developers Bussey and Armstrong contacted Commissions North at the very earliest stages of the project's development to discuss how to integrate public art throughout an eight year scheme which will create a new park, housing, hospital, sports ground and school on a former brownfield site in Darlington.

The arts programme has been led by poet W N Herbert who researched and wrote the WestPark Poetry plan entitled 'Caring Sharing Daring'. The poetry is now being carved, sculpted and cast into numerous features across WestPark and will be integrated into the new architecture of the hospital, housing and school to give the whole development a coherent and engaging narrative. ¹⁹



this is DARLINGTON, that wears its heart within its name

this is LOCOMOTIONTOWN, where the railways first ran; this is QUAKER TOWN, where sharing took root;

ENVIRONMENT




Consett Steel Park

Andy McKeown 

'Fe3 02' is a work of text and cast iron, commissioned to mark the processes and skills involved in iron and steel making within the restoration of Consett Steel Park which is one of the few remaining historic links between heavy industry and the growth of the town.



Albert Park, Middlesbrough

Sue Woolhouse 

Middlesbrough Council commissioned glass artist Sue Woolhouse to design three new gates and a bridge within the Victorian park which has been restored with support from the Heritage Lottery. The local community were involved in the production of the cast glass and Sue worked with blacksmith John Hay to fabricate the gates.



Ouseburn Waymarkers

Lewis Robinson ^{AE}

The Ouseburn valley partnership received funding from RALP to commission a series of sculptures to encourage people to explore the area's unique industry, architecture and environment.

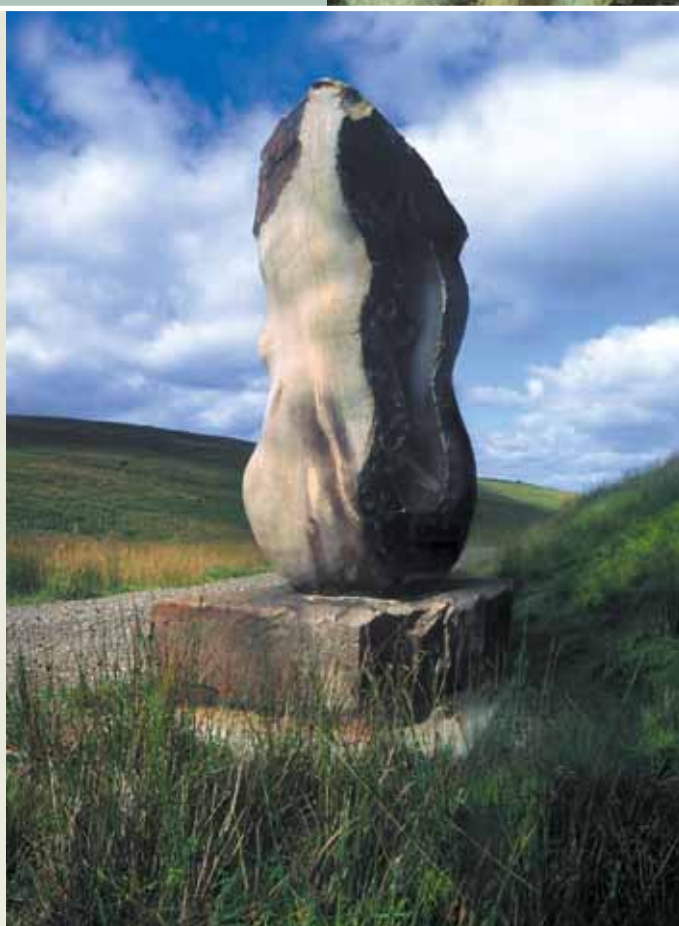


The Alnwick Garden


Alnwick Castle is the seat of the Duke of Northumberland and since 1996 the Duchess has worked to transform a derelict 12-acre site into Europe's finest new garden, which acknowledges the spirit of earlier classical gardens but aims to be a stunning contemporary garden for the 21st century through the commissioning of innovative artists and designers. ^E



ENVIRONMENT




Source of the South Tyne

Gilbert Ward 

The East Cumbria Countryside Agency gathered local people, farmers and walkers to develop the commission with sculptor Gilbert Ward to mark the source of the South Tyne in one of England's most remote and beautiful landscapes, south of Alston.



Greenheart

William Pym 

Great North Forest commissioned William Pym to create five Forest Gateways for newly planted sites on the urban fringe in Tyne and Wear, which are all linked by a history of coal mining and a new future as environmental resources for local communities to enjoy.



Quantum Sheep – Poetry in Motion

Poet Valerie Laws used the basic framework of quantum mechanics: randomness, duality and the influence of the observer on the observed.

Fifteen sheep had one word from a pre-written poem sprayed onto their fleece, and a platform was constructed to observe both the random movement of animals and a new poetic format.

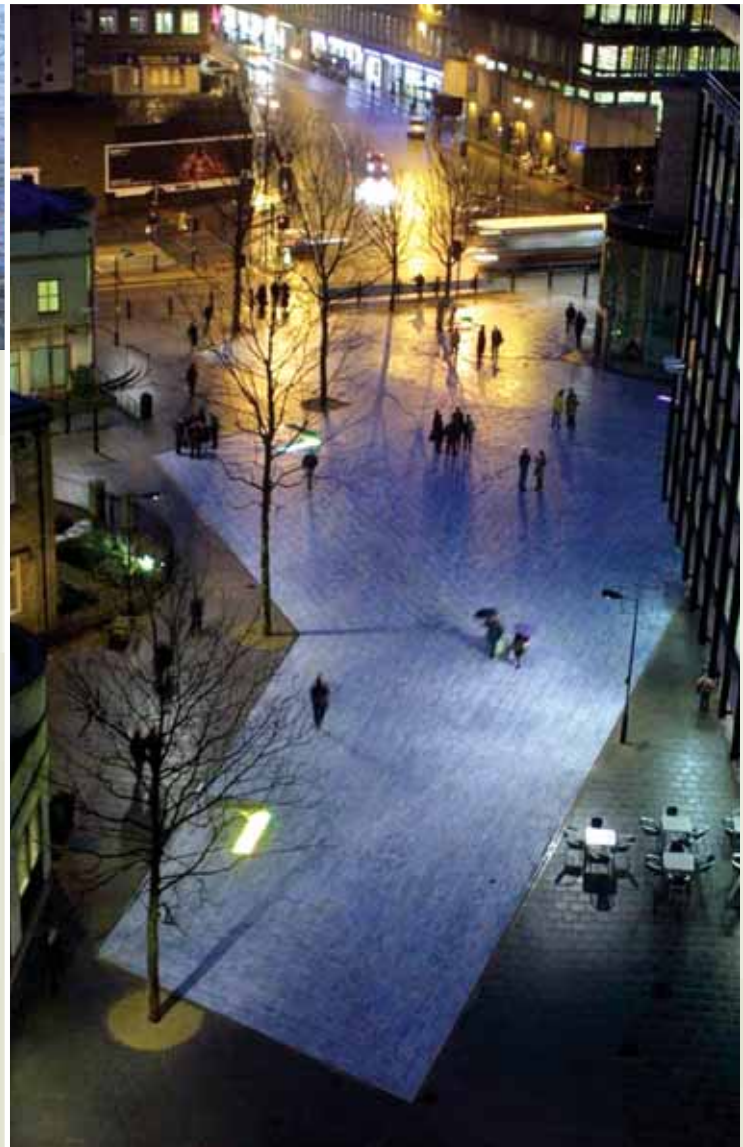


URBAN DESIGN



Blue Carpet

Thomas Heatherwick's new public square in Newcastle has transformed an unloved space around the Laing Art Gallery. 'The Blue Carpet' introduces colour and a cohesive surface to a setting that contains a mix of building types and had no defining character. Laid across the square and 'riding up' against the gallery, the carpet draws the buildings together and creates an intimate open space for both performance and play. The surface has been peeled back to create benches and light voids, and the project incorporates an elegant laminated wooden spiral staircase.







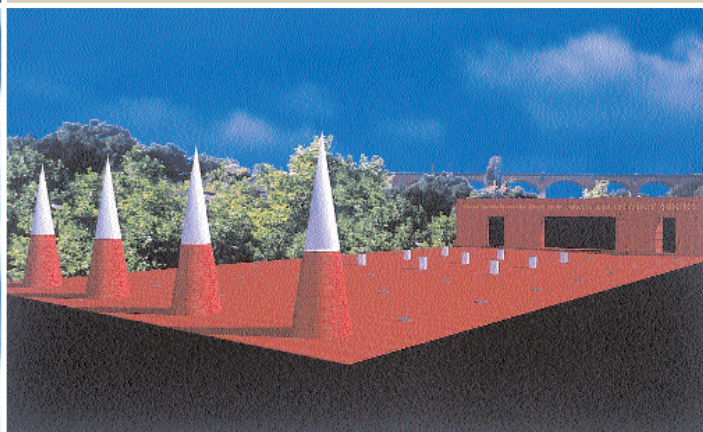
Hartlepool Headland

Artist Judith Gor and Chrysalis Arts have been commissioned to propose designs for light sculpture at Hartlepool Headland as a key part of the SRB Environmental Improvements. [↗](#)



Blyth Riverside Regeneration

A series of community design meetings led by artist Simon Packard helped to develop his conceptual designs for 'The Spirit of the Staithes', a large-scale sculpture which will stand with Blyth's wind generating turbines along the historic quayside. [↗](#)



Market Square, Chester-le-Street

Artist Jo Fairfax worked with Chester-le-Street District Council's design team to produce a range of designs and creative visions for the new Market Square and creative lighting scheme. [↗](#)



Up Front: Redcar and Cleveland

**Lewis Robinson and
blacksmith James Godbold** ^Á

'Up Front' was a sculptural project in collaboration with the local South Bank Community. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council developed the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) project with Cleveland Arts to replace the old boundary wall of the former South Bank football ground.



Sunnyside Park, Sunderland City Centre

Alphaville were commissioned to develop a series of permanent and temporary art projects to influence the vision for Sunderland's cultural quarter based around Sunnyside Park. ^Æ

URBAN DESIGN



Wimpey Homes: Staiths South Bank, Gateshead

Wimpey Homes invited designers Wayne and Gerardine Hemingway – vocal critics of volume housing provision – to design a 688 Home Zone development on the banks of the River Tyne at Gateshead. Through this collaboration, the Hemingways are working with Newcastle based IDP Architects on the overall design concept and to integrate their principals of design, community and affordability throughout the project. ^À



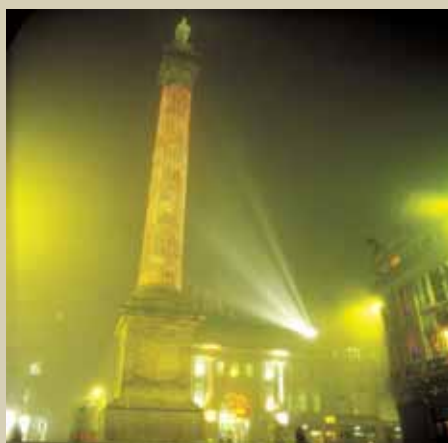
Barratt: Royal Court, Sunderland

Housebuilders Barratt worked with the Council's Public Art Officer to commission four sculptures by Anthony Turner, which are the first pieces of public art to be commissioned by the City of Sunderland within a private housing development. ^È



Bellway Homes: Chesters Wood, Chester-le-Street

Sculptor David Paton was commissioned to produce a number of sculptural pieces across the housing development. The site is located on a former brickworks and the sculptures relate to St Stephen, the patron saint of bricklayers and stonemasons. ^È



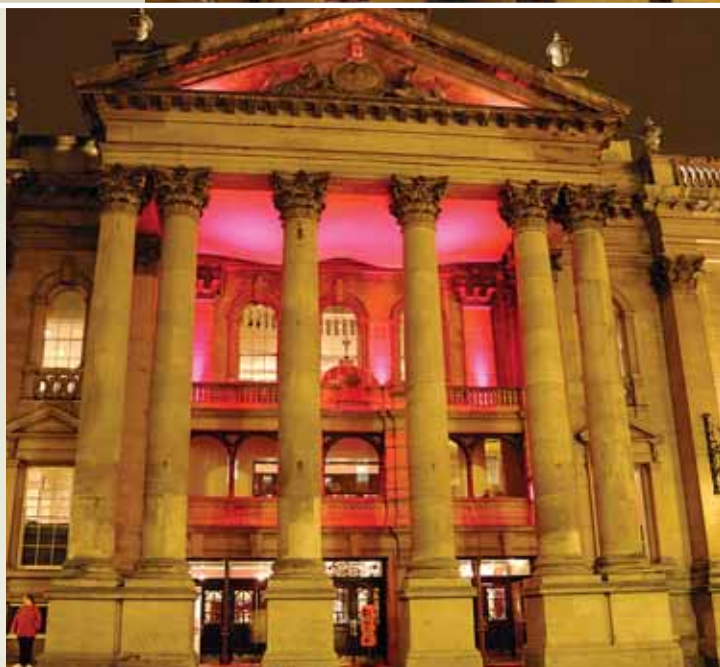
The Grainger Town Project

Often cited as a leading proponent of heritage-led regeneration, the six year scheme to restore and invigorate the historic heart of Newcastle has positively engaged with many artists to design and produce new artworks that sit within the listed architectural context whilst bringing a contemporary sense to the now bustling area. Over six years, the Partnership has approved over £1million of investment for public art projects in Grainger Town.




Greys Monument Lighting, Simon Watkinson


The artist worked with restoration experts Classic Masonry to cast the head of Earl Grey in situ. This cast was then digitally scanned and laser carved from solid acrylic blocks. The four resulting 'headcubes' are edge lit within the Monuments plinth and refer tacitly to the lightening strike of 1941, which toppled the statue's head.



The Grainger Town Project

Theatre Royal, Simon Watkinson 

LED lighting is used to create an animated curtain of light within the portico of the Theatre, both signalling the building's use and creating a dramatic threshold for theatre goers. Artist Simon Watkinson worked with Arup Engineers in developing the reflective PVC canopy set within the coffer space, which heightens the intensity of light.

Street furniture 

Insite design

Glass, Cate Watkinson

Poetry, Julia Darling



wait

and


see

nine
things
to do on
a bench

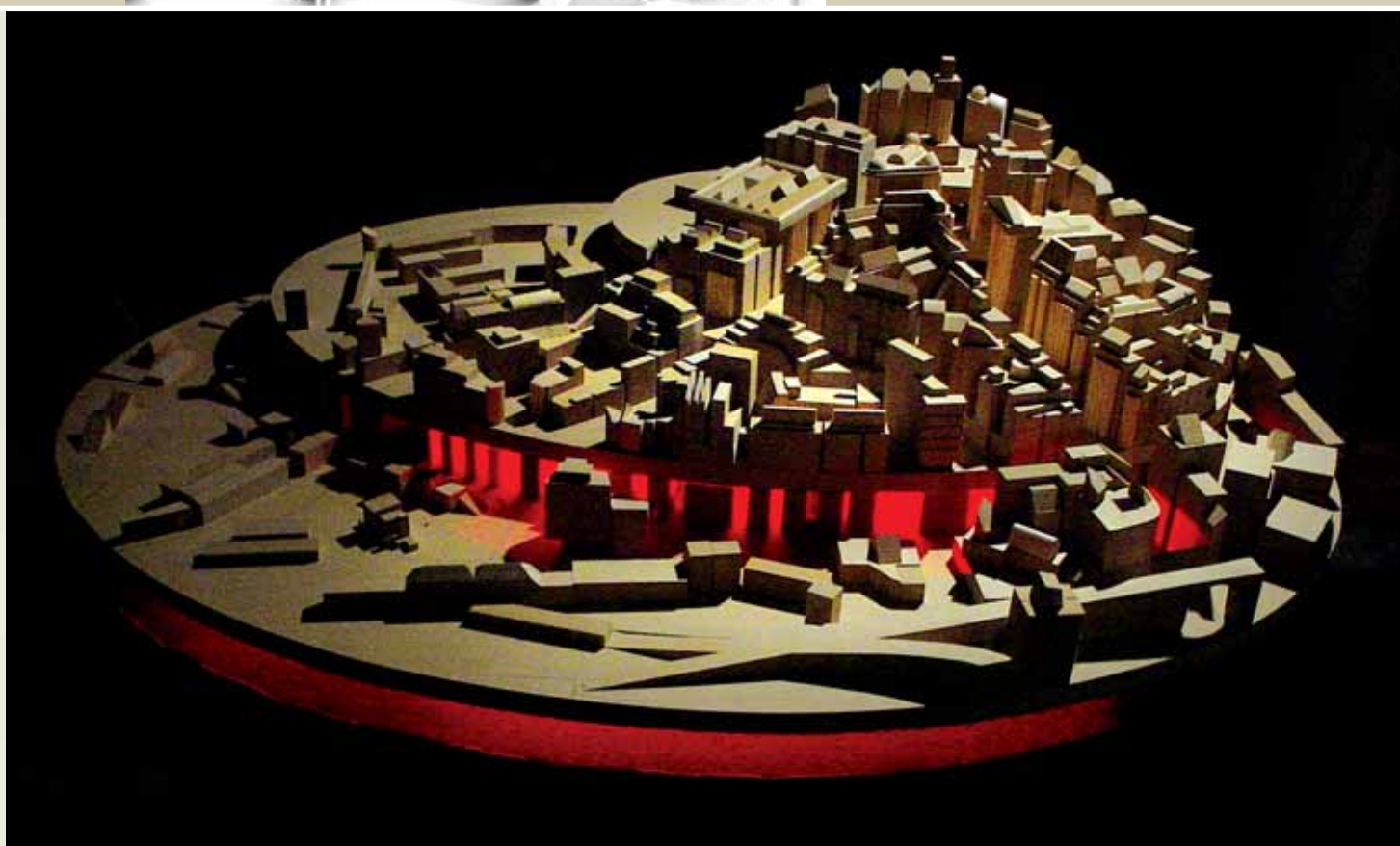
wait





The Grainger Town Project

The Gate, design visualisation, Danny Lane 

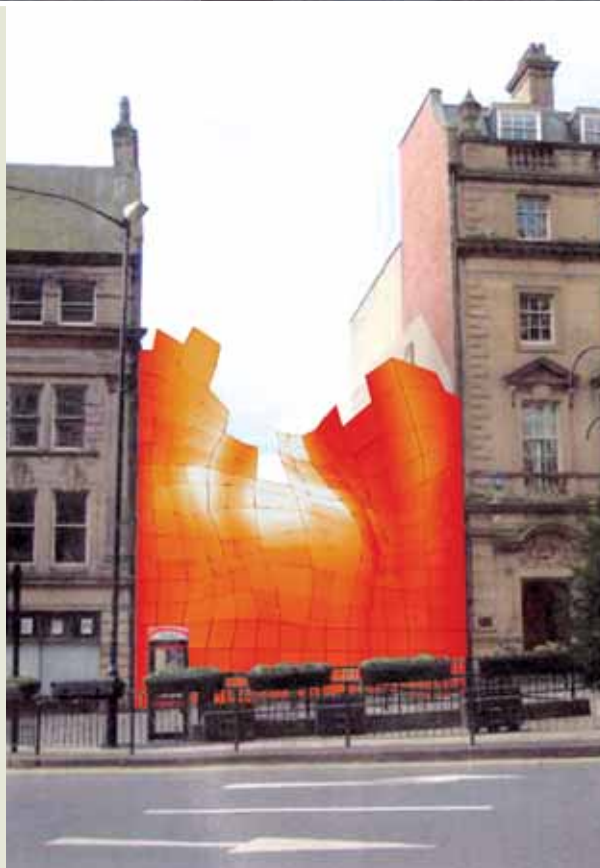
Danny Lane's Stacked glass sculpture has been commissioned in partnership with Land Securities who are the developers for The Gate entertainment complex. The proposal was developed through Grainger Town's commitment to encourage the private sector to commission artists within capital developments in Newcastle.



Grainger Town Map, work in progress, Tod Hanson and Simon Watkinson 

Welcome Mats, design visualisation, Catherine Bertola 

Grainger Town's decision to appoint a Public Art Panel ensured that a consistent group could develop briefs, select artists and support new designs and commissions within the overarching regeneration programme for Newcastle's historic centre. The main aim of the Panel was to provide the best possible advice on commissioning to Grainger Town's Partnership Board.



Cardinal George 'Basil' Hume Sculpture and Memorial Garden, Nigel Boonham ⁸⁸

Opened by The Queen during Jubilee Year, the sculpture stands within a newly designed public space at St Mary's Cathedral, which has been created to celebrate Basil Hume's lifelong association with Northumbria.

How Long, detail, Rupert Clamp ⁸⁹

Red Wall, design visualisation, Cath Campbell ⁹⁰

Man with potential selves, detail, Sean Henry ⁹¹



TEMPORARY



Isis Arts

Initiated in 2000, The Big M is a highly-stylised inflatable structure that functions as a temporary and mobile venue for the presentation of artists' video and digital media. The inaugural programme featured 21 newly commissioned and contemporary works by 16 artists. The Big M has toured to over 20 sites in the UK and Europe and was seen by more than 30,000 people. ¹



Allenheads Contemporary Arts

Based in the old Victorian school house overlooking the village of Allenheads in Northumberland, artists Alan Smith and Helen Ratcliff established Allenheads Contemporary Arts as an independent art and education organisation in 1994.

ACA provides a residential studio, digital facilities and exhibition space within The Old Schoolhouse which is used as a laboratory and meeting place for artists, scientists and curators wanting to collaborate on ambitious arts and environmental projects.

Trapper's Hut ²

Artists Bruce Gilchrist and Jo Joelson were in residence at Allenheads Contemporary Arts as part of the national Year of the Artist programme in 2001.

'Trapper's Hut' was installed at Allenheads Contemporary Arts for a 24 hour period in mid-summer 2002. The virtual daylight panel was activated at mid-day, and only became apparent as light in the environment faded. During twilight, night and early morning, light appeared to have been 'trapped' within the hut from the previous day.



Locus +

Tanya Axford's temporary installation 'Babels Folly' was one of three site specific commissions by Locus + in Newcastle in 2001. Locus + continue to deliver a national programme of challenging projects and publications from their Tyneside base which empowers artists to set a critical agenda. ³



TEMPORARY



At Home I am a Tourist

Artist David Goard continues a creative relationship with Gateshead MBC following a residency within the Planning Department. His temporary projects, performances and installations maintain the debate about public space against a backdrop of huge regeneration. ¹



Living Proof

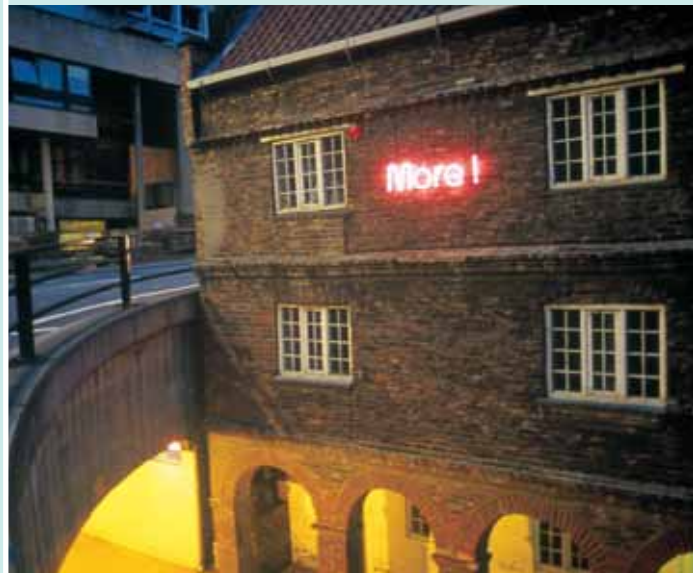
Simon Jones' installation was part of 'Living Proof', a weekend of artist-led projects within the renovated Bewick Court, a residential tower block in Newcastle. ²

VANE/Capital

More! Natalie Frost [Ⓔ]

Sewing Through Space, Jen Douglas [Ⓘ]

Following the successful growth of artist led events within VANE (Visual Arts North East), Capital provided a month long programme of visual arts interventions throughout Newcastle in 2002 involving 27 artists.



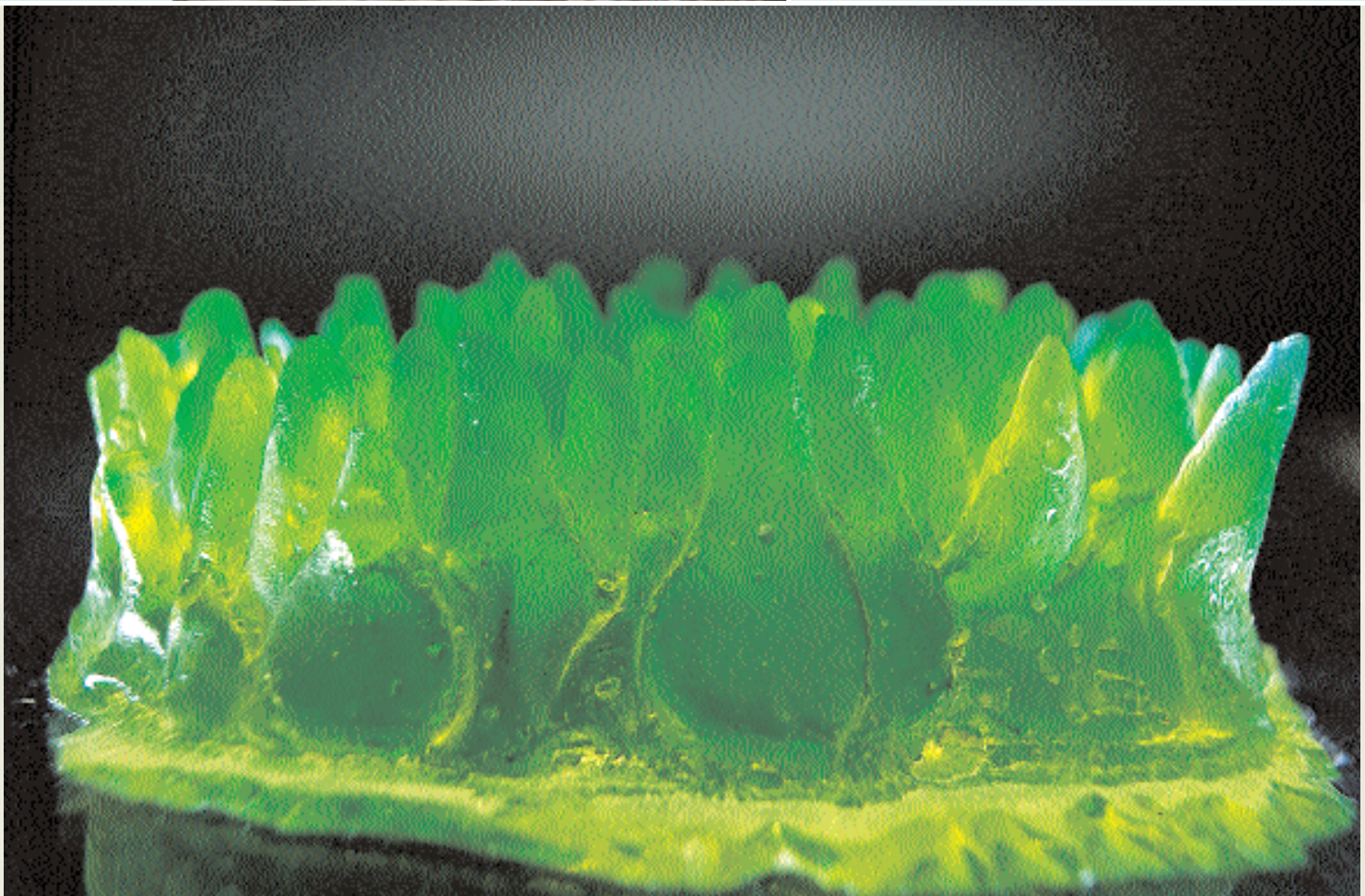
TEMPORARY



Berwick Gymnasium Art Gallery

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva created the exquisitely crafted 'Epidermis' from 1000 salmon skins and skeletons, suspended from nylon threads within the Berwick Gymnasium Art Gallery. The project was part of English Heritage's ongoing fellowship programme which enables contemporary artists to develop new work whilst in residence in Berwick upon Tweed. [Ⓐ]

The Berwick Gymnasium Fellowship enabled Uta Kogelsberger to develop 'Moon Struck', a new body of work that responds to the expansive Northumbrian landscape. [Ⓑ]

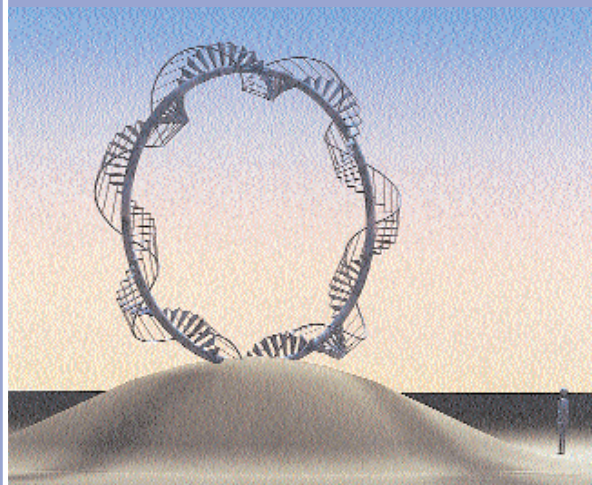


Killhope Museum

Artist Kathryn Hodgkinson produced a number of cast glass sculptures during her residency at Killhope Museum inspired by Spar Boxes that were created by 19th century lead miners. [Ⓒ]



PRIVATE SECTOR



CityWest

Centreland considered proposals from an international shortlist of artists to create designs for a gateway sculpture for their new development in the west end of Newcastle. Wolfgang Weileder's idea for 'Ring' was selected and proposes an endless spiral staircase that ascends and descends to form a giant loop and visual gateway for the city. [ð](#)

Centre North East

Marchday Holdings decision to commission lighting for their imposing office block in Middlesbrough has turned the building into an evening landmark on the Teesside skyline. Arts and Business has supported Ron Haselden's commission for 'Rose' which uses neon to animate a new identity for the building. [ð](#)



Capital Shopping Centres PLC

Glass artist Cate Watkinson collaborated with Haskolls Architects and Gateshead Council to develop the design for a major glass, stainless steel and lighting beacon that will visually mark the new development of the Metro Centre, Gateshead. [ð](#)

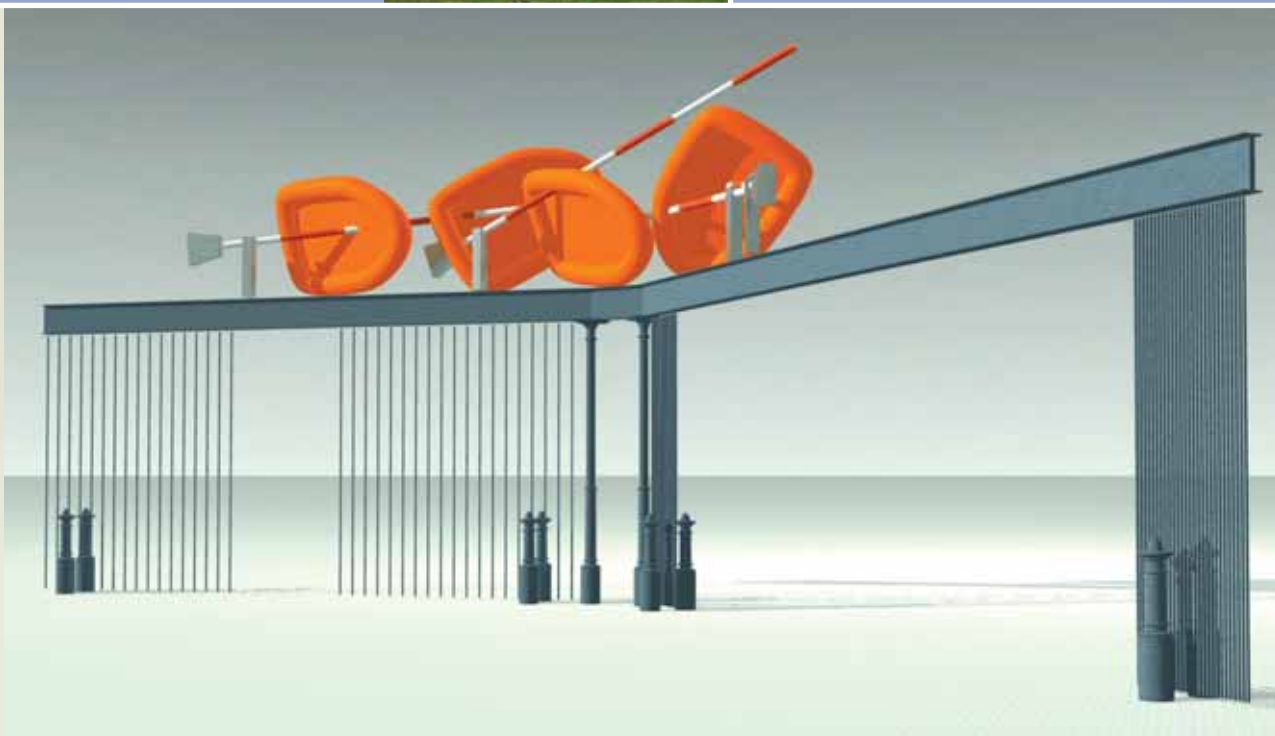


PRIVATE SECTOR



The Watermark

Developers City and Northern selected Danny Clahane from a shortlist of invited artists to create sculpture, seating and signage in polished slate, marble and limestone for the new Watermark office development. ^À



Blue River Design

Newcastle based artist Wolfgang Weileder's design is the first installation at Blue River Design's offices in Newcastle. Through a partnership with Arts and Business and Commissions North, Blue River Design have turned their derelict railway gates into an exciting venue for temporary public arts commissions which will provide a unique showcase for regional artists to make new experimental artworks. ^È



Red Box Design

Fenwick Lawson's evocative sculpture was the first work to be shown at architects Red Box' purpose built space for contemporary art within their new offices at the Old Post Office, St Nicholas Chare, Newcastle. ¹

Silverlink

Artist Peter Randall-Page will create three geometric sculptures based upon large glacial boulders for the new Trinity Gardens development, which will link Newcastle's Quayside to the city centre. Silverlink's early commitment to engage an artist within the development of the public realm has enabled a meaningful dialogue between the artist, landscape designers and architects. ²

PRIVATE SECTOR



UK Land Estates

Artists Colin Wilbourn and Joss Smith have created new sculpture in stone within a series of landscaped squares at the The Waterfront business park.

UK Land Estates ensured designs were incorporated early within the procurement process which has led to an elegant fountain by Joss Smith and a series of playful carvings of hidden objects and viewpoints by Colin Wilbourn.



One NorthEast

A high of 360 degrees, Tanya Axford [Ⓔ]

The Regional Development Agency has demonstrated its commitment to contemporary art by developing a programme of arts commissions within their new headquarters at Newburn Riverside designed by architects Red Box. The main atrium commission features a kinetic installation by artist Tanya Axford and was selected from four ideas by artists based in the North East. The work features over 250 electric fans, which are electronically programmed to start and stop in sequence and create a wave of movement across the space.

River Folds, Wellington Reiter [Ⓐ]

Wellington Reiter was invited to develop ideas for a sculptural beacon for the new One NorthEast offices, that draws upon the potent symbol of the regions rivers within a series of contemporary sculptural structures.



PRIVATE SECTOR



NCFE

Glass artist Sarah Blood was commissioned to produce a series of intriguing glass objects for the new NCFE reception in Newcastle while Dominic Fondé worked with staff to produce a creative story that was etched into his blown glass sculpture. ^À



Newcastle University

Painter Phil Morsman produced dramatic and atmospheric designs which were digitally printed and enlarged to form unique soundproofing screens within the University's new Bedson lecture theatre which the Estates Office has created within a former mining workshop. ^È

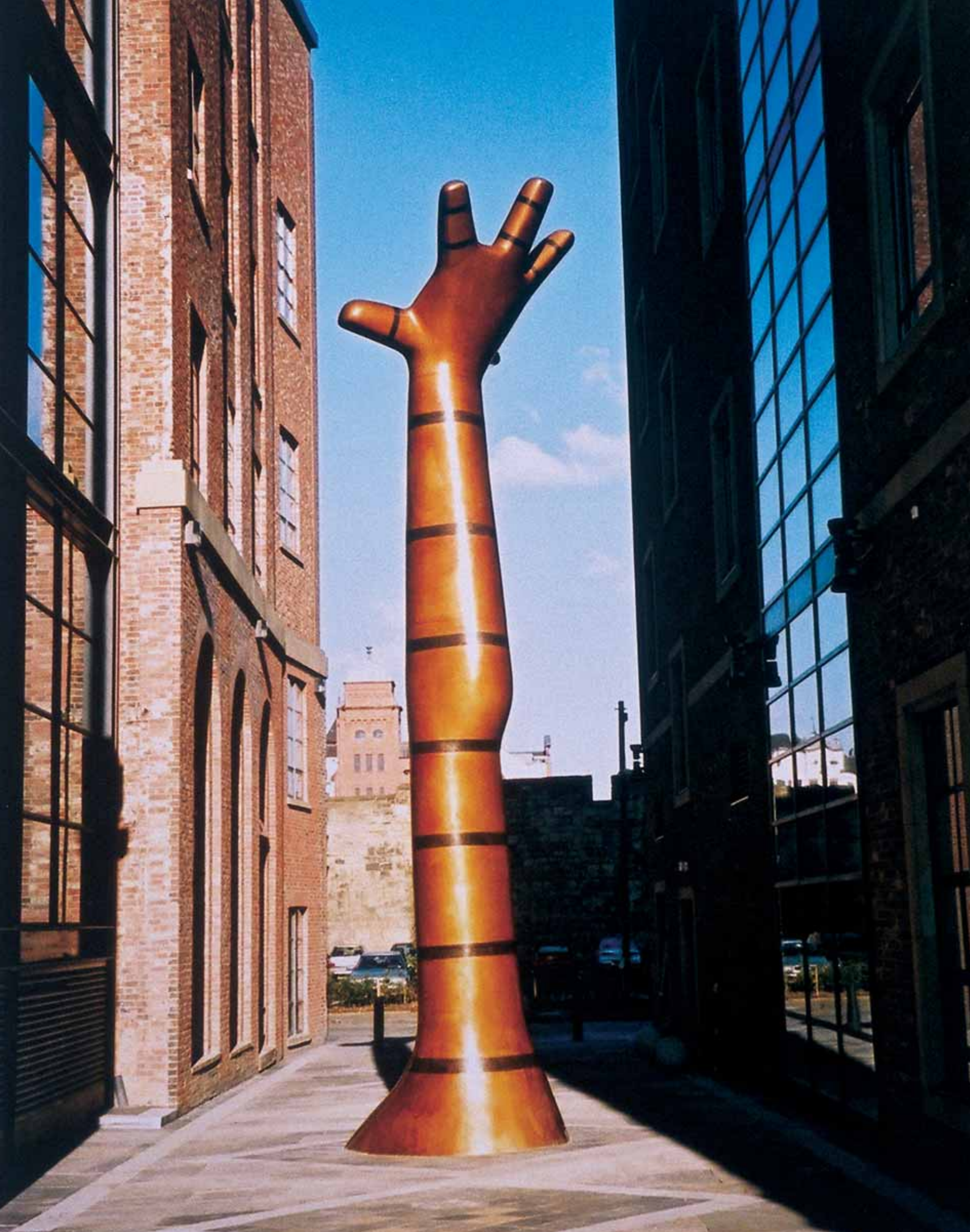


Central Square South

Water Cone, William Pye ^È

Reaching for the stars, Kenneth Armitage ^È

Parabola Estates' commitment to commissioning high quality artworks throughout their developments at Central Square, Newcastle, contributed to their success in winning the National Award for Refurbished Workspace from the British Council of Offices.



PRIVATE SECTOR



Arup

Artist Paul Scott took four Northumbrian castles as thematic inspiration to produce ceramic collage and signage for the meeting rooms at Arup's offices at Central Square, Newcastle. [ð i](#)

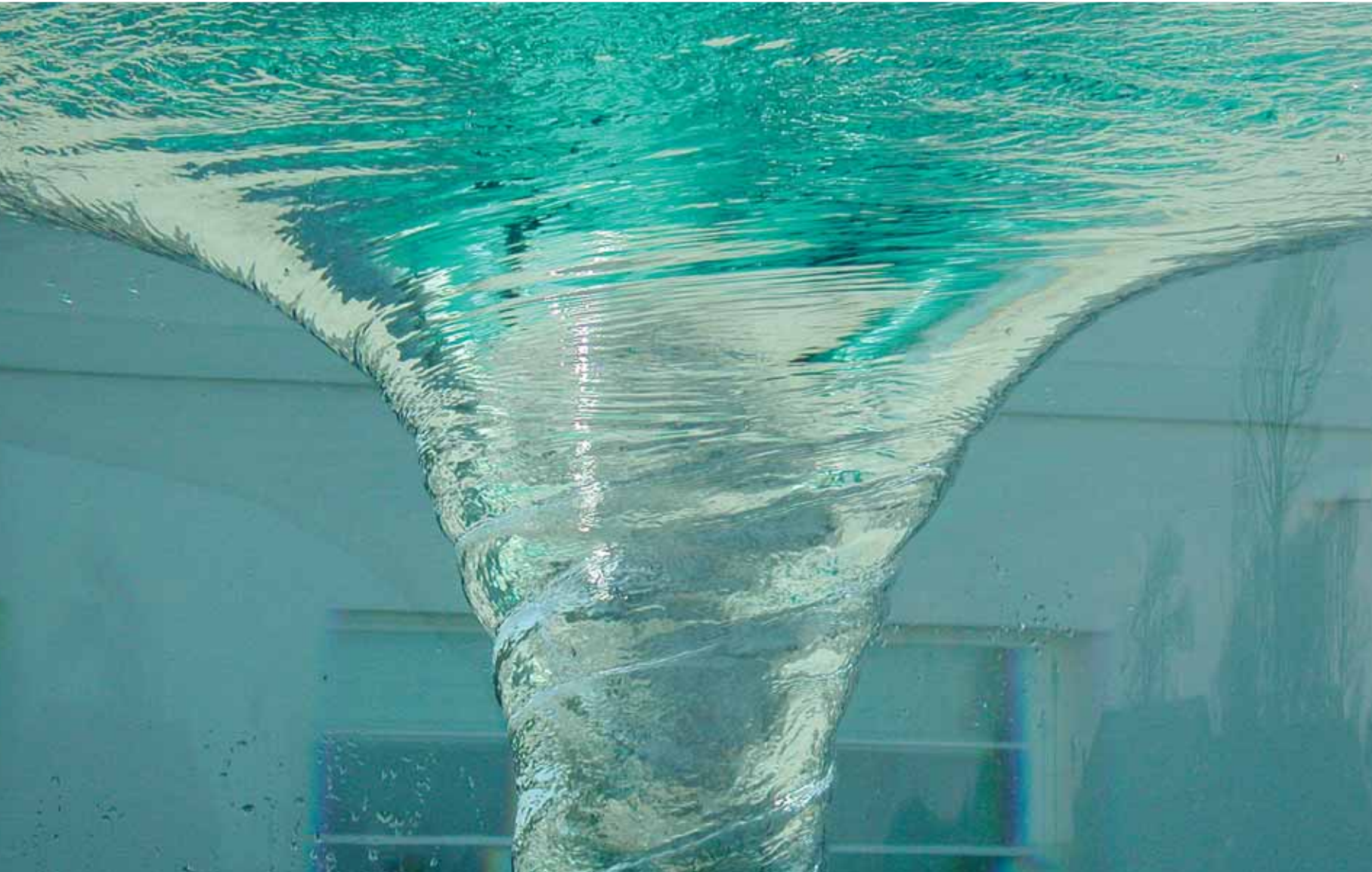
Seaham Hall

Glass, Bridget Jones [Á](#)

Charybdis, William Pye [ð](#)

William Pye's stunning water vortex 'Charybdis' was commissioned by the owners of Seaham Hall to create a unique welcome to the new hotel development at the former home of Lord Byron in County Durham.







PRIVATE SECTOR



Newcastle Estates Partnership

Effie Burns 

Dominic Fondé 

Diane Welford 

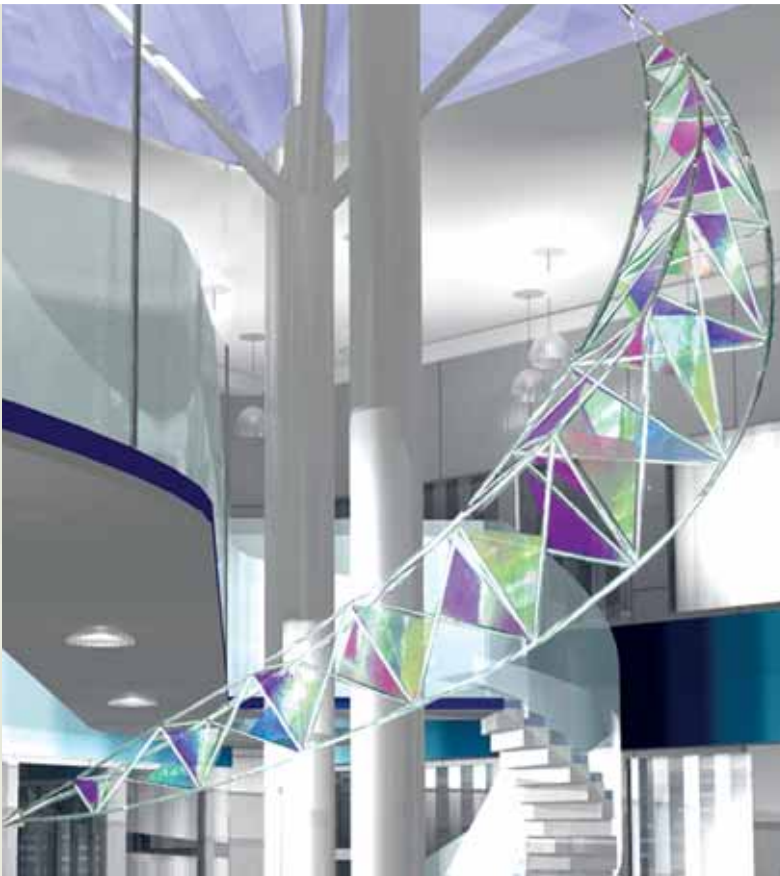
Jo Coupe 

NEP demonstrated a commitment to involve and release the creativity of staff when their tenants moved into new office accommodation at Benton Park View, Newcastle upon Tyne, which was designed by Sir Michael Hopkins and Partners. Working in partnership with Commissions North and the staff steering group, a series of exciting contemporary artworks were commissioned which engaged personnel on many levels.

There were four artists involved in the project: Effie Burns produced a series of cast glass architectural forms for each office atrium; Jo Coupe took wild flowers from the surrounding site and transformed them into fine bronze casts which refer to Victorian botanical illustrations; glass artist and writer Dominic Fondé asked staff to keep diaries and then etched individual entries onto 24 blown glass vessels; and Diane Welford collected the staff's thought forms and reinvented them as miniature bronze sculptures.



PRIVATE SECTOR



Northern Rock PLC

Paul Merrick [Ⓔ]

Laura Johnston [Ⓐ]

Sue Woolhouse

Roger Dickinson

Edward Clarke [Ⓔ]

The dramatic growth of Northern Rock has led to the expansion of their Head Offices in Gosforth which are being designed by architects Red Box. A commitment to engage with a range of artists was taken early in the design process and five artists were selected from an invited design competition to produce contemporary works for the new office environment.

The main atrium commission has enabled Paul Merrick to produce 60 abstract paintings which will be dramatically hung across the new space. [Ⓔ]

Laura Johnston's suspended diachroic glass sculpture will animate the new staff restaurant space as the glass filters and refracts light. [Ⓐ]

Edward Clarke considered Northern Rock's history in the region and made 10 architectural drawings of towns from Tyneside to Teesside. [Ⓔ]





Nexus

Tag-Tile, Longbenton Metro Station,
Simon Jones and Robert Belilios [Ⓐ]

White Light, St Peter's Station, Ron Haselden [Ⓐ]

Communion, Tynemouth Metro Station, Julie Livsey [Ⓐ]

The adoption of a Percent for Art policy in 1996 has enabled Nexus to strategically implement an ongoing programme of both temporary and permanent artists' commissions across the public transport system on Tyne and Wear.





TRANSPORT



Nexus

Circuit, Monument Metro Station, Richard Cole ^Á

Pulse, Four Lane Ends Metro Station,
Andrew Stonyer ^È

Cullercoats Metro Station, Steve Hines ^Ó

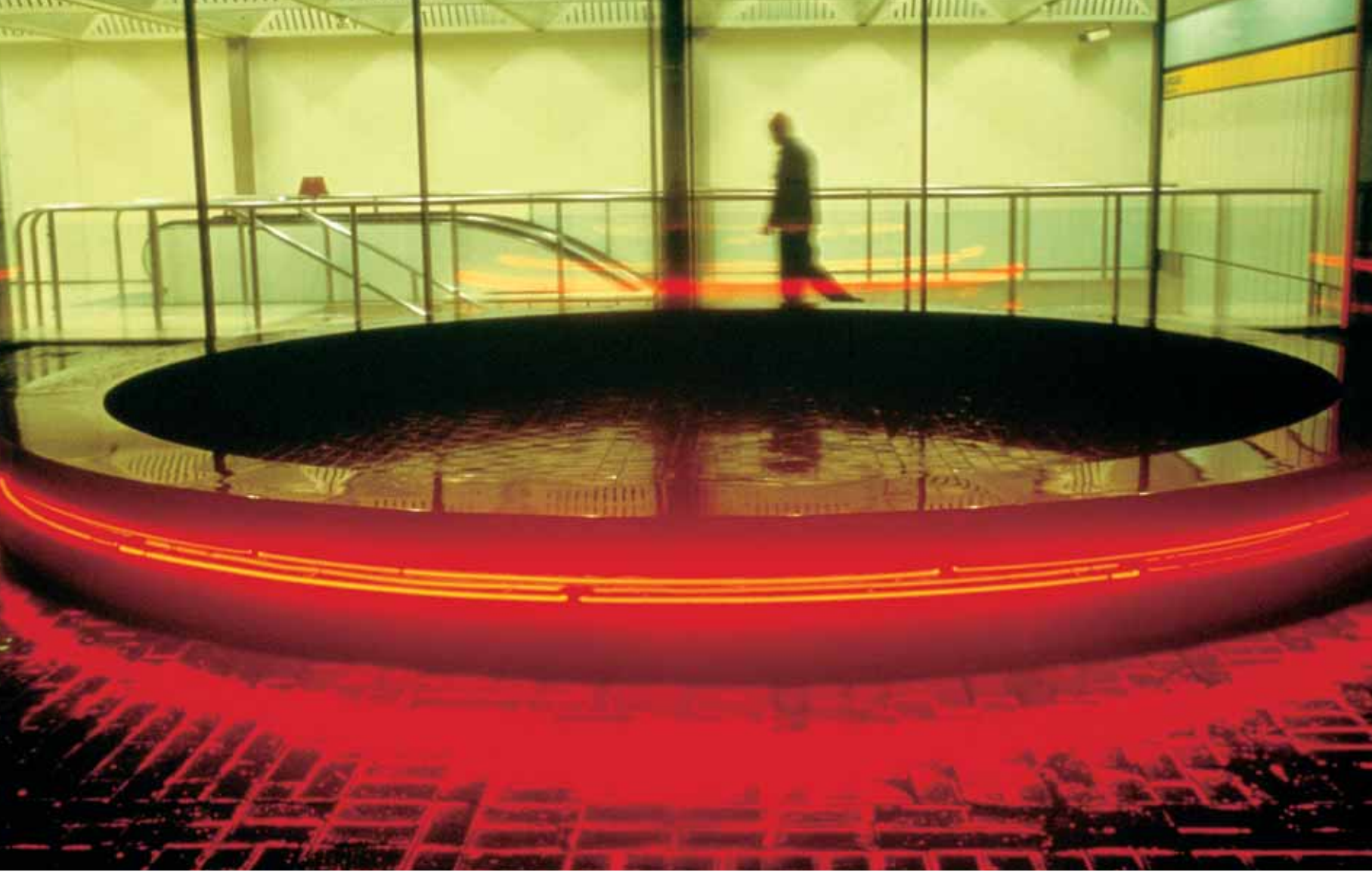
'Faith, hope & charity' – a temporary projection,
was created to transform the southbound platform
by introducing a universal symbol of affection.



Newcastle Airport


Cate Watkinson's glass screen was commissioned for the new international arrivals terminal at Newcastle Airport. Titled 'Steady Eddy', the glass image refers to global air currents, the work marks a new gateway into the North East. ^È







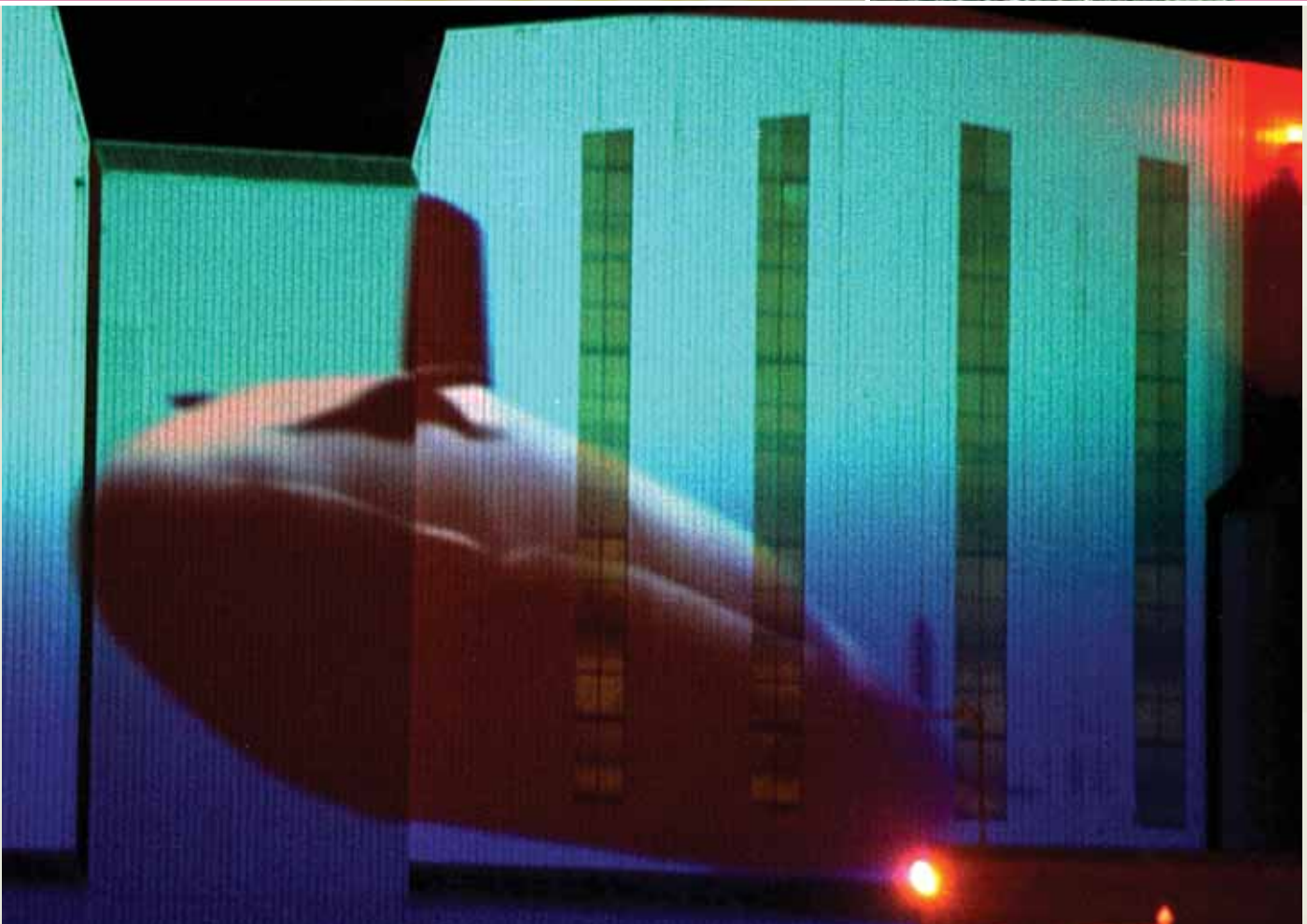


In 2002 Northern Arts ceased to work in Cumbria, however a legacy of new commissions are in place and many exciting new projects are in development throughout the region.

Lakes College West Cumbria, Maddi Nicholson 

**Tullie House Millennium Gallery,
Minerals and cast glass, Kathryn Hodgkinson** 

**Penrith Millennium Stone,
Eden Arts / Cardoso Kindersley Workshop** 



Grizedale

Artist Graeme Roger was employed by the local community to perform a hermitage in Grizedale forest within a structure designed by architectural group FAT.   

Art Gene, Maddi Nicholson,
artist led gallery and studios   

Projection, Barrow in Furness, Stephan Gec   

YEAR OF THE ARTIST

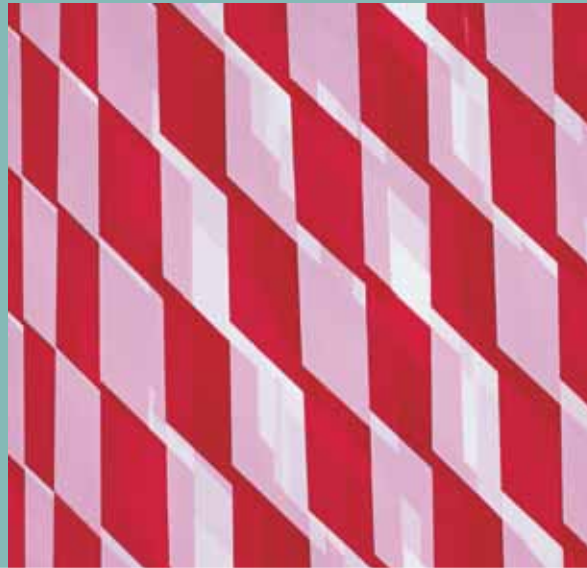


Julia Barton

Julia Barton's 'Phyto-form' exhibition was the culmination of a year's residency at Levens Hall. Her sculptural topiary was created through collaboration with the gardeners and inspired by the world famous planting and Elizabethan costume. The Year of the Artist scheme of 2000-01 aimed to raise the profile of artists by enabling 102 residencies with new partners in public settings in the North.



ENCORE



Paul Moss

Paul Moss worked with IDP Architects for a year to explore the process of building design and procurement and to enable the architects to interact with his contemporary practice. The process was funded through the Encore programme of bursaries which have been created following the Year of the Artist to provide creative and professional development for individual artists.

Commissions North was established in April 1999 to provide advice, information and practical support in the field of arts commissioning.

Based within Northern Arts, Commissions North aims to help public and private sector organisations and businesses to commission artists and to promote new creative opportunities in the region.



If you would like advice or information on commissioning, contact:

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0191 255 8555

matthew.jarratt@northernarts.org.uk

www.arts.org.uk

Screen, Stephen Newby ^Å
Seating, Ali Rhind
Clock, Fiona Grey

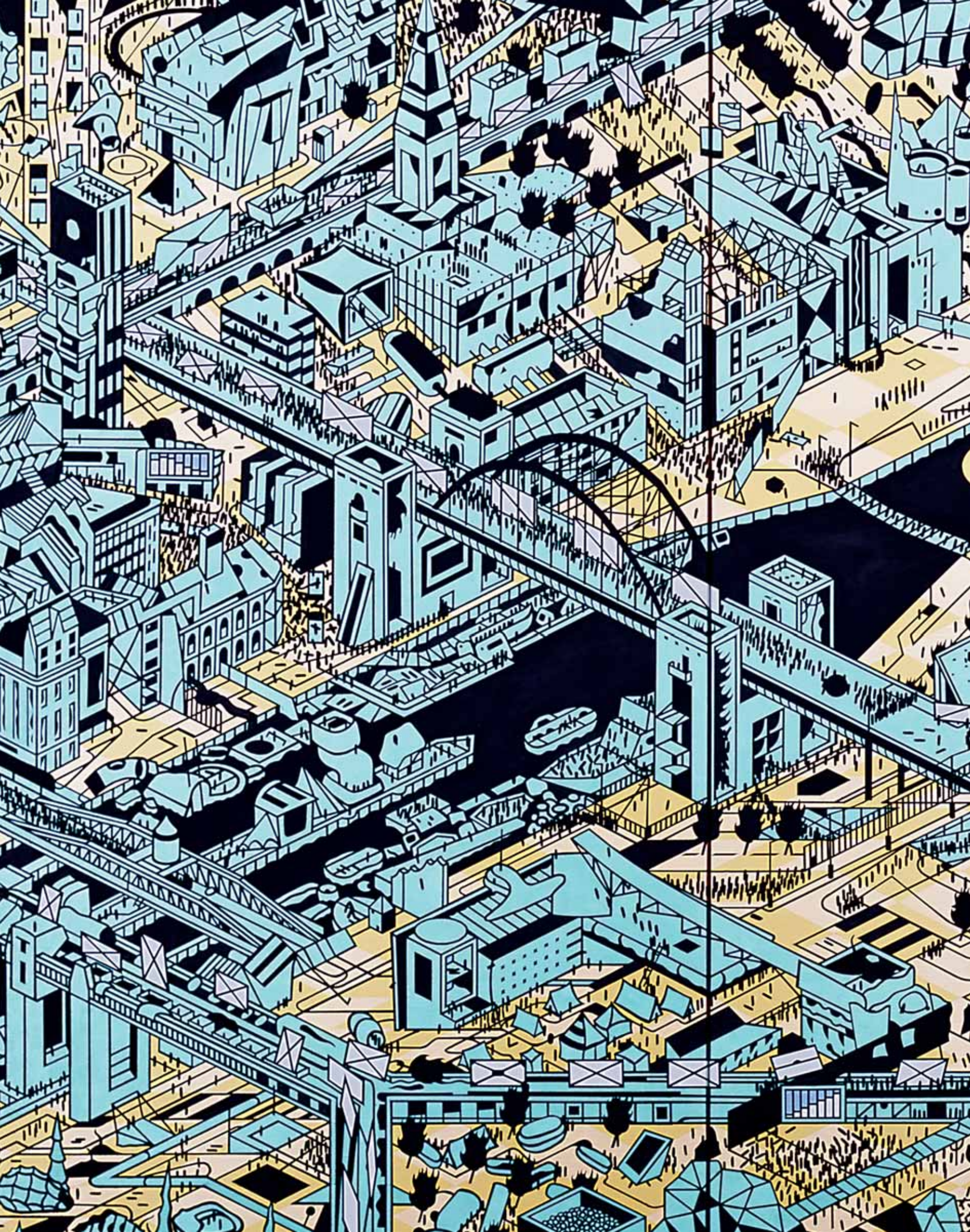
Photographers: AirFotos, John Alevroyianni, Christian Barnes, George Bosnyak, Stewart Bonney Agency, City Repro, Steve Collins, Chris Cowan, John Donoghue, Lindsay Duncanson, Elliot Young, Foster and Partners, Stan Gamester, Andrew Gryf Paterson, Jerry hardman-Jones, Matthew Jarratt, Teesside University VR Centre, Sally Ann Norman, Keith Paisley, Keith Pattison, Mark Pinder, Mike Stiff, Laurence Ward, David Williams.

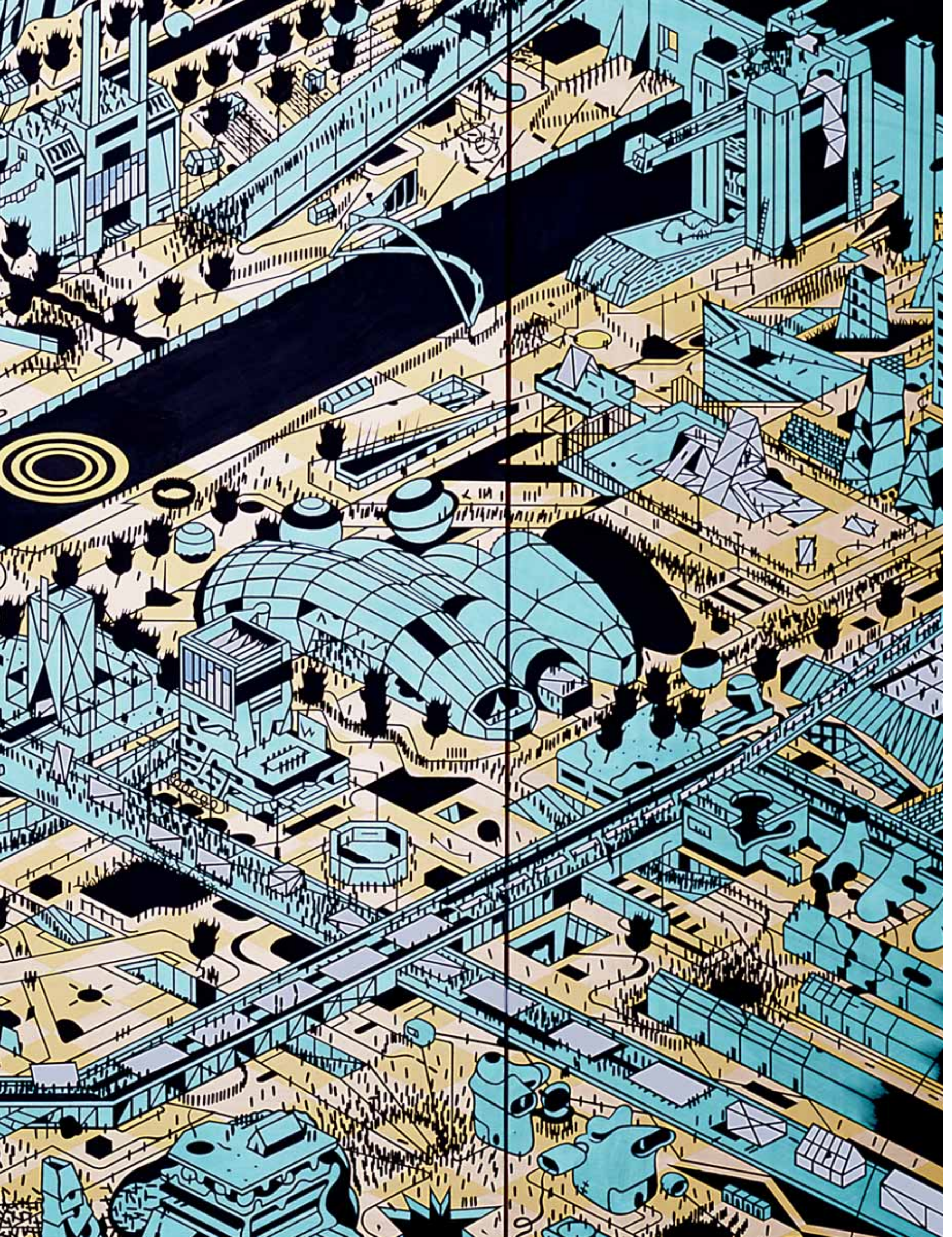
Written and edited by Matthew Jarratt

Compiled by Sally Ann Atkinson

Design and direction by Ripe Design, Gateshead







Back cover fold out

History of the Future, Tod Hanson
Courtesy of the Herwood Collection

Commissioned by Northern Architecture, Tod Hanson's vision of a futuristic Tyneside could be considered as a creative blueprint for challenging new design, art and architecture within a time of frenetic regeneration and renaissance in the North East.

Back cover

Blue Carpet, Thomas Heatherwick

