

Sam Baxter

Sam Baxter is a stone mason and sculptor, he lives and works in Harrogate. He has donated the sculptures, presently on display in the BIU garden, on extended loan to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. The sculptures were spotted by Joanna Foster, whilst being exhibited in Oxford, as part of Artweeks 2004. After a brief period in Joanna's garden they were re-located to the hospital.

Sam sculptures are a meditation on time and the effect this has on stone, a material normally associated with permanence and solidity.

The sculptures on display show Sam's love of stone and the versatility of its surface, texture and form. He marries the manmade process of stone carving with natural processes of erosion, creating an aesthetic that fuses these elements producing sculptures that appear to be fragments of ancient monuments or architectural relics.

Sam employs a variety of techniques, contrasting the smooth eroded surface of stone with the stark split of a pitched face of rock or emulates the sculptural effect water has on stone: Wearing away the surface into a smooth undulating form, highly polished but with the hint of a face.

By leaving some of the stone in its original raw state and imposing his own ideas on other sections of the rock Sam creates a dialogue with the material. Lips symbolise this dialogue - the stone speaks to sculptor and he in turn express himself through the stone.

"The act of carving stone can be an isolating act and often when in my studio, it seems as if this expression is only to myself. Like an actor on stage delivering a soliloquy".