Public Art plays a key role in the University of Leeds campus from the contemporary works of Art in Focus: MA Art and Design student, Whitney Crighton, are set to invigorate the student experience. Through their sculptures, staff, local communities and visitors, the academic and student creative community, mark your calendars for this exciting exhibition. It will take place in a variety of open spaces and building foyers across campus. Begin your performances, textile interventions and hand knitted community works over the summer months as part of your graduation shows.

This year we highlight the iconic building that has stood in the history of the University of Leeds, as we celebrate this anniversary of the Man-Made Fibres sculpture by Gill. 

The sculpture, titled ‘Walking Figure’, was cast in 1968 by Eric Gill and was purchased by the University in 1995. It is an imposing 8-foot concrete group. In 1955, the same year she was appointed Head of Fine Art at the Slade School of Fine Art in London, Sadler was commissioned to produce a major piece for the New Man-Made Fibres building at the University of Leeds. Professor Eric Sadler, as Dean of the Department of Textile Industries, requested a piece which would reflect the working progress in the field of synthetic fibres. 

Gill suggested an abstract piece in such a way that it could be executed in polyester. This led to a competition, which Gill entered. He was approached by the University to make a sculpture for the new building and was appointed to execute the work. The sculpture was a response to the question of what it was that the artists had to do to contribute to the building of the new Man-Made Fibres. The commissioning committee wanted it to be in-executed to be cast in polyester. 

Walking Figure is to be displayed in the family garden at Upper Poppleton, and some of the figures relate directly to those in its original title, ‘The Dreamer’. 

Sadler himself steadfastly championed Gill’s work. 

In June 1956 and now 60 years on, the work has just been conserved and re-housed in the East Wing of the Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery. 

Chattaway called for an artist who could ‘conceive a major piece for the new Man-Made Fibres building at the University of Leeds. Professor Eric Sadler, as Dean of the Department of Textile Industries, requested a piece which would reflect the working progress in the field of synthetic fibres. Chattaway submitted a sketch of an armless figure in synthetic fibres, which was to be executed in polyester.

Cunliffe spent her entire working life bringing art into a sustainable community garden. She wanted her work to be ‘used, rained on, enjoyed, enjoyed by a whole range of visitors and nature on campus. The sculpture ‘is intended to be used – for sitting, for meeting at and to create a socially interactive space’ and students can be seen lunching at the bottom of the sculpture. The University Concert Series presents a diverse range of repertoire and events. It was founded in 1991 by Ian McElhinney and is run by volunteer committees, events and student volunteers.

Looking for an article on a specific topic? Please contact o715 938938 or email: stage@leeds.ac.uk
Sustainable Garden
Accessible entrance serving more than one building
North – South Campus Access Route Internal (may involve lifts)

KEY
1. Public Art
   Suggested Routes
   1. North – South Campus Access Route External
   2. North – South Campus Access Route Internal

North Campus Access Route Internal (may involve lifts)

Student Creative Writing Responses: A workshop with 2nd year English students led by poet Linda France and Ann Summer produced a series of creative, immediate responses to public art on campus which are shown framing our map.

Poetry responses
UNTITLED BAS-RELIEF
HUBERT DALWOOD (1924-1976)
DAVID MAYNE
Aluminium – 1961
Lent by the artist.

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