

Sculpture commission by global artist is 'on track'



ARTISTIC VIEW: Corby-based correspondent Tom Bingham is well known for his love of local history and the arts. Here, he introduces us to the artist who won the commission for the Railway Station Sculpture 2015 Corby – work that will greet visitors to Corby Railway Station.

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ARTIST John Atkin has been given the commission by Corby Borough Council to provide the art installation within the boundaries of Corby Railway Station.

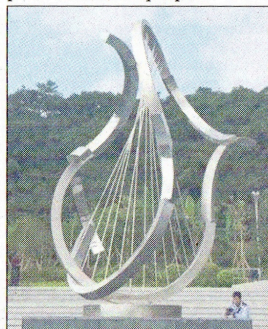
John is no stranger to Corby as far as 'public art' is concerned: in 2008 it was his corten and stainless steel project, 'Pluto', that was installed in the Phoenix Parkway for Corus. This material is a corrosion-resistant steel that, left uncoated, develops an outer layer patina which looks like rust. This patina protects the steel from additional corrosion.

John is truly a global artist, exhibiting his work worldwide. Sculptor Henry Moore – founder of a charitable foundation that promotes sculpture work in general – personally funded Atkin throughout his MA course at the Royal College of Art.

Atkin's 'public art' interest is in the interaction of people with artworks that change a space into a place – providing a landmark for an area that becomes a meeting point for generations. He has

less steel work created in 2011 for the Changchun International Sculpture Symposium, where Atkin delivered a keynote lecture on Public Art and Urban Regeneration projects.

And his 'Strange Meeting' sculpture was commissioned by Beijing Municipal Government for its Olympic Park – the 27-ton marble and granite artwork (sited by the Bird's Nest Stadium) formed part of an exhibition of 26 artists selected from a global application of 2,600 people.



PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST/SCULPTOR: Above, John Atkin. Right, Pluto, installed at Corby for Stewarts & Lloyds. Below left, the stainless steel Silk Road sculpture – which takes its name from the famous trade route – marks a new public realm in the heart of Fuzhou, China. Below – San Francisco's Hard Bop sculpture's shapes were designed to evoke written musical notes and instruments.



OLYMPIC FEAT: Above, the marble and granite 'Strange Meeting' was inspired by the Wilfred Owen poem that tells of a meeting between two dead enemy soldiers and how they see beyond conflict and hatred. Atkin was the only British artist chosen for this Beijing Olympics site, which features work by 26 artists.