

13. 'The Community' by Charles Anderson, 1996, cast bronze
Located at Livingston Square



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘The Community’ 1996
ARTIST	Charles Anderson
MATERIALS USED	Cast bronze
LOCATION	Livingston Square

The realistic and figurative sculpture called ‘The Community’ by the artist Charles Anderson was made in 1996 and is positioned at Livingston Square. It is one of two sculptures which were commissioned by the Livingston Development Corporation to coincide with the completion of Livingston town centre. The other sculpture which was commissioned at the same time was ‘The Windvane Family’ an abstract sculpture by the artist Philip Johnson.

The sculpture called ‘The Community’ by Charles Anderson is a figurative image of 4 young people, all holding hands and forming circle as if playing games or dancing a reel.

The visual appearance of the sculpture is reminiscent of the painting called ‘The Dance’ by Henri Matisse, which was painted in 1910.

The sculpture has been cast in bronze and so has a traditional appearance. The sculpture would have been made from clay before being cast in the more permanent medium of bronze. The sculpture has a sense of movement and energy because of the way the artist has carved the figures, their clothes and their hair, suspended forever like an action shot. It is an uplifting sculpture because the energy of the people has been cast in bronze.

It symbolises the sort of people, groups, families and friends who make up a community like Livingston.

Another artist who worked in bronze in this way was Auguste Rodin, the 19th century French sculptor. Rodin also captured energy, life and physical power in his bronze sculptures.

14. 'Time to Look' by Andrew Mylius, 1976, rolled steel
Located north of Almondvale Boulevard



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	'Time to Look' 1976
ARTIST	Andrew Mylius
MATERIALS USED	Rolled steel
LOCATION	North of Almondvale

The abstract sculpture called 'Time to Look' by the artist Andrew Mylius was made in 1976 and is positioned north of Almondvale.

It is a large sculpture made up of two areas of steel forming a right angle in the shape of an arrow or wedge.

The sculpture could also resemble an aircraft of some sort which would appear to have landed among the trees.

It is an elegant, modern shape with different angles of steel which open up to allow the viewer 'Time to Look' at the surrounding landscape around the sculpture.

Other sculptors who have made modern abstract sculptures like 'Time to Look' are:

Anthony Caro, and Richard Long.

15. 'Transformer' by James Ritchie, 1996, sandstone

Located at Civic Square, Almondvale Centre



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Transformer’ 1996
ARTIST	James Ritchie
MATERIAL USED	Sandstone
LOCATION	Civic Square Almondvale Centre

The sculpture called ‘Transformer’ by local artist and sculptor James Ritchie is an abstract image made up of different shapes carved from sandstone. It is currently situated at Almondvale Centre, Civic Square.

The sculpture was specifically designed and built for the outdoors. In an interview with the artist when he was making the piece he said:

‘What we are actually doing here is creating sculpture in public.’

James Ritchie was referring to the fact that he, and other artists, were building and installing public art in the outdoors for people to watch in progress and view once completed as part of the permanent landscape for years to come.

When Ritchie was asked to describe this piece of sculpture he said:

‘My sculpture is very much an abstract piece which is almost now based on a Chinese puzzle that all fits together.’

The sculpture does look as though several large shapes have been cut separately and fitted together.

The overall effect is visually stunning and powerful. The sandstone sculpture complements the similar shapes found in the surrounding landscape.

Another artist to work in abstract forms in this way is the painter and sculptor Ben Nicolson.

16. 'The Paraffin Harvester' by David Moore, 1995, sandstone
Located at West Lothian House



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘The Paraffin Harvester’ 1995
ARTIST	David Moore
MATERIAL USED	Sandstone
LOCATION	West Lothian House

‘The Paraffin Harvester’ is a sandstone sculpture by the artist David Moore.

It is a powerful image of a machine that represents the steam engine and a combination of the paraffin lamp and a train.

The shapes are carved together in stone and the overall effect acts as a reminder of the early inventions of the industrial revolution that made the growth of local industry possible.

When asked to describe the sculpture in an interview David Moore said:

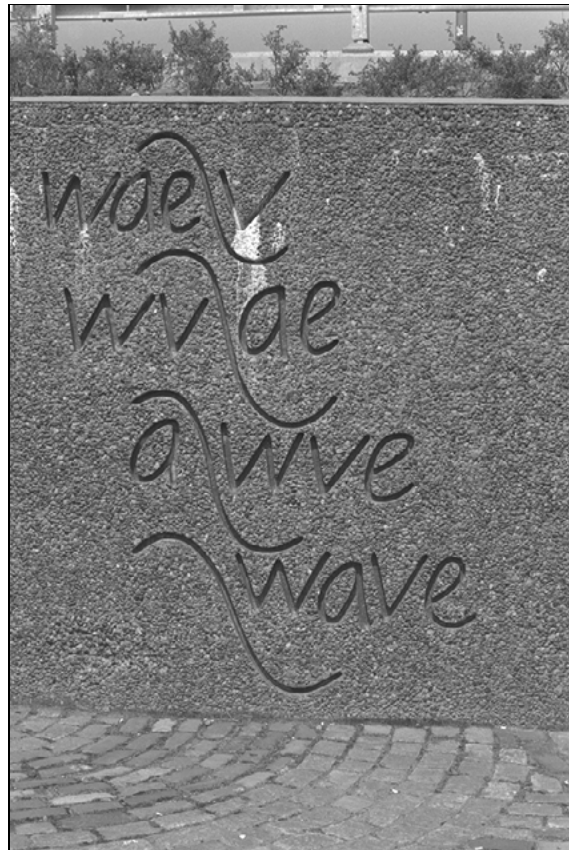
‘These shapes put together in ‘Paraffin Harvester’ really create an exciting visual image to look at. It is based on the train which you can see by way of the grid at the front. The part at the top represents the paraffin lamp.’

The image also shows holes like the holes in the earth to symbolise the idea of shale being extracted from the earth. The whole image emerges from this idea because: ‘..without natural earth’ said David Moore ‘ there would have been no mining industry and then West Lothian Town would not have sprung up.’

David Moore has created a 3-D image in sandstone which is a powerful image to look at and a permanent reminder of the types of industries from the past that shaped the West Lothian landscape and provided the communities in West Lothian with a livelihood and cultural history.

The sculptor George Wylie also makes sculptures which reflect machinery and images from industry.

17. 'Wave Poem' by Ian Hamilton Finlay, 1976, cast concrete
Located at Almondvale Drive underpass



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Wave - Poem’ 1976
ARTIST	Ian Hamilton Finlay
MATERIALS USED	Cast concrete
LOCATION	Almondvale Drive underpass

The sculpture positioned at Almondvale Drive underpass by the artist Ian Hamilton Finlay is a decorative concrete slab made in 1976. The words on the sculpture look as though the artist has taken a piece of driftwood from a beach to write a poem in the sand.

In fact the words have been etched, not in sand which could be washed away with the waves, but in solid concrete making ‘Wave Poem’ a permanent fixture in the landscape.

Ian Hamilton Finlay often makes sculptures specially for gardens or for placing in a landscape setting.

His work is elegant and decorative and reflects words and images from the past.

Ian Hamilton Finlay’s sculptures can also be viewed at his own landscaped garden called ‘Little Sparta’ which is at Stoneypath near Lanark.

18. 'Abstract' by Denis Barnes, 1977, stainless steel
Located at Dedridge Burn Greenway



COMMUNITY SCULPTURES IN WEST LOTHIAN

TITLE OF SCULPTURE	‘Abstract’ 1977
ARTIST	Denis Barnes
MATERIALS USED	Stainless steel
LOCATION	Dedridge Burn greenway

The sculpture called ‘Abstract’ by the artist Denis Barnes is the one of the four sculptures by him to be commissioned by the Livingston Development Corporation in the mid ‘70s.

His sculptures were the first public works to be completed as the first housing districts were also being completed between 1974 and 1978.

This was an important time during the growth and development of Livingston as a new town, and the LDC made modern sculpture an important part of the towns new culture and image.

The large abstract sculpture at Dedridge Burn Greenway is similar to a steel horn, like ‘The Horn’ sculpture which has been erected at Polkemmet Park by the artists Dalziel and Scullion.

The abstract sculpture done in 1977 by Denis Barnes is a modern structure made from modern stainless steel.

It looks like a large shiny, wavy line on the landscape and against the sky. The shape is unusual and reminds the viewer of perhaps, industry, outer space, or science fiction.

‘Abstract’ is a modern piece of sculpture positioned in a modern setting in the 1970’s. It symbolises ‘The New’ and ‘The Ambitious’. Perhaps it sums up the atmosphere of Livingston as a modern place to live and work in, from the 70’s until now 20 years on and into the year 2000.

Other artists who have worked this way are:

Anthony Caro, and Richard Deacon.