***Hippocratic Tree* by Christine Borland, Whitworth Park**
Supporting Statement
May 2014



Hippocratic Tree in Whitworth Park (mock up)

1.0 Sculpture in Whitworth Park

As part of the Whitworth's project to extend and develop its collections, building and relationship with the park and its visitors, it is proposed that more sculpture should be installed in Whitworth Park. The extension to the gallery will soon be complete (opening 25 October 2014) and part of the vision for that new building is that it should open up access between the park and the Whitworth. Visitors will be able to see art inside the building and outside too, making the park and its gallery an even better place for the people of Manchester and its visitors to enjoy. This document is in support of a planning application for a new sculpture by Christine Borland to be permanently sited in the park.

2.0 The Sculpture

Hippocratic Tree will be a new large sculpture by the artist Christine Borland. Measuring approximately 10 x 12 x 4m, its steel frame form will be derived from the support structure that surrounds Hippocrate's ancient plane tree on the Greek island of Kos. It was under this tree that Hippocrates is reputed to have taught his students medicine. Making a link with that ancient tree, it is proposed that Borland's sculpture is installed under existing plane trees in Whitworth Park. Its steel frame will be powder-coated in white and will stand out starkly against the trees and grass. It is intended that the sculpture will invoke the missing ancient and symbolic tree in the eyes of its viewers, and also make a connection between the history of medicine and the site of Whitworth Park opposite Manchester Royal Infirmary. People will walk around it and underneath it, enjoying its sculptural presence and its relationship to the park and gallery. The Whitworth has a long-standing history of Arts and Health work with the MRI and it through this and also the gallery's work with schools and colleges that *Hippocratic Tree* will become part of the Whitworth's outdoor programme. A small stone plinth will be set into the ground nearby, giving the name of the artist and the title of the work. The sculpture will be free for all to see within the opening times (dawn to dusk) of Whitworth Park.



Hippocrate's Tree, Kos, Greece

3.0 The Artist
Christine Borland (born 1965, Ayrshire) is a British artist acclaimed for her work within art and medicine. She attended the University of Ulster and Glasgow School of Art and is Baltic Professor of Contemporary Art at Northumbria University. In 1997 Borland was nominated for the Turner Prize Turner Prize. Her work is owned by many public collections, including Tate, National Galleries of Scotland and Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

4.0 Location of the Sculpture
The sculpture will be sited on land owned by the University of Manchester but leased to Manchester City Council. Responsibility for the sculpture will rest with the University. Responsibility for the land will remain with the Council.

5.0 Ownership of the Sculpture
The sculpture will be commissioned by and paid for by the Whitworth Art Gallery. It will be part of the collection of the Whitworth Art Gallery, The University of Manchester.

6.0 Fabrication and Installation
The sculpture will be fabricated and installed by Scott Associates (Glasgow), a company with long experience of making and installing public sculpture. All transport and installation costs will be met by the Whitworth Art Gallery.

7.0 The design of the sculpture

7.1.1 The sculpture is essentially a rectilinear frame structure, made from 60mm diameter x 4mm wall circular hollow section steel. The dimensions of the work are 10.42m x 9.12m x 4.02m high, with 21 posts set into concrete pockets (300mm x 300mm x 350mm deep) under the ground.

7.1.2 An internal spigot connection will be used to join the pipes at the intersections. 2 machine screws will be used in conjunction with a permanent bonding agent to fix these joints. This will make all joints strong, permanent and tamper proof.

7.1.3 A combination of the specified steel sections, and the connection details will make the sculpture very strong and able to bear loads in excess of 0.5 tonne in this particular situation.

7.1.4 The tubular steel will be galvanised then powder coated white. This galvanised and powder coated finish is very durable, and the estimated life expectancy of the finish is 20 years minimum.

7.1.5 A steel disc will be welded in to all open ends of the tubes to avoid any debris getting inside. There will be a number of discreet 8mm diameter holes drilled throughout the structure to allow it to be galvanised.

7.1.6 The work will be fabricated in a number of components to allow for transportation. Some components will be fully welded panels / flat sections of structure. Other components will be single connecting tubes.

7.2 Installation

7.2.1 The sculpture will made up on site from the prefabricated flat panels, and connecting tubes.

7.2.2 Firstly, the sculpture position will be accurately set out on the ground and 21 holes dug by hand. Any tree roots encountered during digging will be moved aside. The panels and tubes will be lifted in to place by hand and then jointed together using hand tools.

7.2.3 Once the structure is assembled and in place, the holes will be filled with concrete, allowing for space on top of the concrete for soil and turf to give a very natural connection between artwork and landscape.

7.2.4 The sculpture will be installed entirely by hand avoiding any heavy machinery such as excavators or mobile cranes on site.

8.0 Signage

8.1 A sign will be installed to let users of the park know the name of the artist and the title of the sculpture. It will also state that the sculpture is not to be climbed on. The sign will be designed by Ben Kelly Design (London), who

have been appointed to work of the signage for the inside of the Whitworth, in consultation with Curator Mary Griffiths and Neighbourhood Officer Debra Conroy, and fabricated locally. The draft specification for the sign is that it will be of stone or cast concrete, fabricated as a block with an inclined face, set into the ground but standing approximately 25cm at its highest point. The inclined face would be approximately w40 x h30cm with a stainless steel plaque with engraved text attached. The reason it would be standing proud of the ground is so that it can be seen by visitors and that the information about he work of art and the instruction not to climb can be read. The trip hazard that it presents will be lessened by careful placement.

8.1 Proposed text for sign:

Christine Borland (b. 1965)
Hippocratic Tree 2014
Powder coated steel
Whitworth Art Gallery Collection

Please do not climb on the sculpture

9.0 Timescales

9.1 Fabrication in Glasgow will take 7 weeks, and installation will take one week.

10.0 Management Strategy

10.1 As part of the Whitworth Art Gallery's collection, the sculpture will be formally assessed annually by the Manchester Museum's Sculpture Conservator. Any general dirt or moss growth will be dealt with immediately. Any damage or rust noticed will be assessed and dealt with by a contractor. In addition, weekly visual checks will be made of the work of art. All costs for any works will be met by the Whitworth Art Gallery.

10.2 Responsibility for the land rests with Manchester City Council but the University will undertake the mowing and strimming of the grass around the posts of the sculpture.

11.0 Risk Assessment

Dean Whiteside, House Services Manager at the Whitworth has carried out a risk assessment on the sculpture which is presented as a supporting document.

12.0 Liability
Martin Hampar at the University's Central Procurement and Insurance Office, has stated that the University insurers have confirmed that the University's liability insurance will cover liabilities arising in respect of the sculpture. This is subject to all risk assessments being undertaken (and acted upon). It also comes with the recommendation that the responsibility for the land on and around which the sculpture is installed is clarified.

13.0 Consultation
The sculpture and its installation have been discussed with:

13.1 Manchester City Council – Neighbourhood Officers with responsibility for Whitworth Park who are in support of the installation of this sculpture.

- Debra Conroy (Central Neighbourhood Manager, with responsibility for Whitworth Park)
- Kylie Ward (North Area Manager, Community and Cultural Services)
- Joe Walsh (Neighbourhood Team Leader - Arboriculture)

13.2 Friends of Whitworth Park
In support of the installation of this sculpture.

- Ken Shone
- Alistair Smith
- Gill Reddick

13.3 University of Manchester, Estates and Facilities

- Paul Williams (Design Services Unit Manager)
- Christopher Thorley (Architectural Technologist)
- Dean Whiteside (House Services Manager, Whitworth Art Gallery)

13.4 Greater Manchester Police

- Inspector Helen Caldbeck (Longsight Neighbourhood Policing Team, E1)
- Attention was drawn to the need for a sign asking people not to climb the work.
- Inspector Caldbeck also asked if the work is to be lit. This is not intended as the park is closed to the public at night.