Making A Mark by Nicolas Moreton mrss.

This exhibition sets out to give the attendee a glimpse into the life of a sculptor. Moreton works in a traditional manner using sketchbooks and maquettes to help work out ideas before moving into the stone. Carving, and particularly, hand carving, requires time, patience and a bit of muscle. This is a time-consuming process which allows each of his sculptural works to take on their own identities and not have the look or feel of a manufactured form. The sculptor says “there’s no wrong or right way to view a work of art, it is ultimately the relationship you have with the work that determines how it speaks with you”.

In the Cloisters

Gooseberry Fool
Ancaster Hardwhite Limestone
46cm x 46cm x 46cm        1985

Carved in 1985 as part of Moreton’s degree show at Wolverhampton Polytechnic. The title is taken from the Victorian love code meaning “foolish anticipation”, it dealt with the emotional interpretations of relationships.

Curling Inwards
Ancaster Weatherbed Limestone
81cm x 71cm x 63.5cm       1991

This work first shown at the Mall Galleries, London in 1991 is a true representation of what Moreton refers to as “free flowing” carving. This curled up inwardly reflecting work can be a passive or dynamic form depending upon its positioning.

Open and Out
Ancaster Weatherbed Limestone
51cm x 46cm x 86cm          2002

This striking form first shown at the Hutson Gallery in London is a fine example of how the duality of male and female form is manipulated in one sculpture, setting up questions about our sexuality in a direct and confronting way.

No Desert Rose Ever Bore Petals So Exquisite
Kilkenny Limestone
76cm x 61cm x 152.5cm                 2003

This poetic title is taken from a passage in a Wilbur Smith novel and refers to the beauty of a woman. Notice how the sculptor uses the monochromatic versatility of the stone to enhance the imagery of the figure.
Transition
Ancaster Weatherbed Limestone, red cloth and Metal frame
50cm x 50cm x 180cm                2005

Made for the “Transition” tour 2004-2006 around four English Cathedrals, the work depicts the protection, nurturing and birth of a child. A rare mixed media work, the red cloth depicts the blood and fluid that supports the unborn baby, whilst the zip beckons the viewer to reveal the image behind the cloth to birth the child.

Rising Son
Clipsham Blue Limestone and 24c Gold leaf
51cm x 61cm x 167cm              2005

Moreton says this is an image he would never have carved without having a son of his own. Most parents at one time or another will “do shoulders”. This affectionate work celebrates the joy of fatherhood. Using symbolism of floral heads and hand gestures, the father stands proud, supporting an excited and vibrant child.

Sunflowers (Man and Boy)
Clipsham Blue Limstone and 24c gold leaf
35.5cm x 46cm x 122cm           2002

A simple carving celebrating those first steps. Over the years the “sunflower” head has become a personalized symbol for the sculptor’s character.

Chrysalis
Ancaster Weatherbed Limestone, Italian Marble and LED
201cm x 55cm x 30.5cm                   2008

Since 2005 Moreton has explored and created to great affect stone works which have included electrical light and sometimes heat. This elemental ribbon shell form is an excellent example. The hollowed out marble inset “breathes”, emerging from its textured shell, a form that can be an open or closed

Rising Form III
Italian Marble
30cm x 8cm x 132cm                       2017

These rhythmic pulsating forms connect the earth to the sky, reflecting upon the energies of life that surround the every day.
In the Fullness of Time
Portland Roach Limestone + Ancaster Base
127cm x 30cm x 27cm                     2016

Notice how the sculptor has chosen the fossil rich stone to enhance the feeling of movement and energy of the life forces around us.

Nighttime Stories
Kilkenny Fossil Limestone and Portuguese Marble base
70cm x 20cm x 180cm              2020

The dark black stone with its dancing calcite fossil shell is used to take the viewer into a dream state portal. Again the fullness of form motif harks back to Moreton’s earlier work.

White Light Dream
Portuguese Marble
70cm x 20cm x 180cm            2021

As a counter point to Nighttime Stories Moreton has made a sculpture that echoes its story but its feel is quite different. The treatment of the marble with its frosted hand smoothed finish creates a softer, calmer white dream like state that pulls you through the portal into another world.

Catching Natures Gift
Ancaster Weatherbed Limestone
120cm x 60cm x 165cm               2020

Ancaster Weatherbed is Moreton’s favourite British stone and this work shows why. Notice the textures of the hair against the smoothness of the body. How the hands are also left rough as if to say they are working hands. See also how the sculptor has tried to use the bands of colour in the stone to help convey the ideas behind the work.

In the Ante Chapel

Pregnant Reclining Figure Turned
Ancaster Limestone, plaster, seed cones.
90cm x 46cm x 49cm             1986

After leaving college Moreton set up studio in a disused pig barn in rural Northamptonshire. Influenced by the landscape and the fertile fields around him he set about celebrating this in a figurative sense. Carved by hand this is an excellent exponent of his use of bespoke forged 90cm long chisels.
Warm and Tender Breast.
Ancaster Hardwhite Limestone
51cm x 51cm x 41cm            2004

The child nestles into its mother, suckling, safe, comfortable and warm. This carving shows all the sensitivity of the artist understanding his subject and how to use his tools to express it.

Lifeboat
Pink Ancaster Limestone
56cm x 28cm x 28cm            2003

The womb as a boat is a simple but effective metaphor for the journey, that carries and eventually brings its precious cargo to our world.

Breath
Rosa de Monte Marble
41cm x 35.5cm x 23cm            2004

A beautifully moving work in Rosa de Monte Marble from Portugal which captures the first gasp of new life. Simple and sensitive, celebrating the wonderment of new life.

“Making A Mark”
By Nicolas Moreton.mrss

Works are available for purchase directly by contacting the sculptor
Via email. moreton.nicolas@gmail.com
Or via Mobile on 07966736057. Please ask at the Tourist Gate for a price list.
Further information on the sculptor can be found at

www.nicolasmoreton.com

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Exhibition is held in
The Cloisters and Ante Chapel of
New College,Oxford,OX1 3BN

Exhibition dates 17th October 2021 - 8th July 2022.

For Opening times always check
https://www.new.ox.ac.uk/nicolas-moreton-exhibition