



NEW COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



VIRGIN AND CHILD

Making a Mark

by Nicolas Moreton MRSS

Details of the featured works

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 deals 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 on 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.



In the Cloisters (2)



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 blood and fluid that supports the unborn baby, while the zip beckons the viewer to reveal the image behind the cloth to birth the child.



NEW COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In the Cloisters (3)



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 other 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 Limestone 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 personalised 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 effect, 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 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 everyday.



In the Cloisters (5)



In the Fullness of Time

Portland Roach Limestone and 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

(left of photograph)

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

(right of photograph)

Portuguese Marble

70cm x 20cm x 180cm 2021

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



In the Cloisters (6)



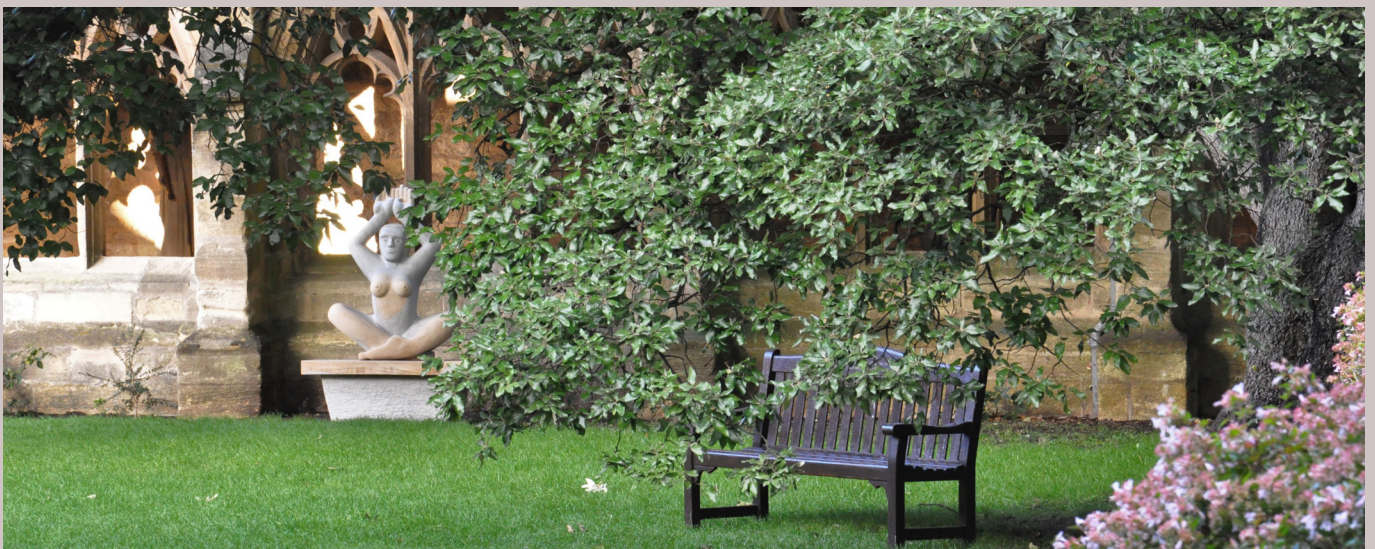
Catching Nature's Gift

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 and how the hands are left rough as if to say they are working hands. See also how the sculptor has tried to use the bands of colour to help convey the ideas behind the work.



NEW COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In the Antechapel



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 using 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.

Breathe

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.



NEW COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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 (07966736058).

Please ask at the Tourist Gate for a price list.

Further information on the sculptor can be found at www.nicolasmoreton.com

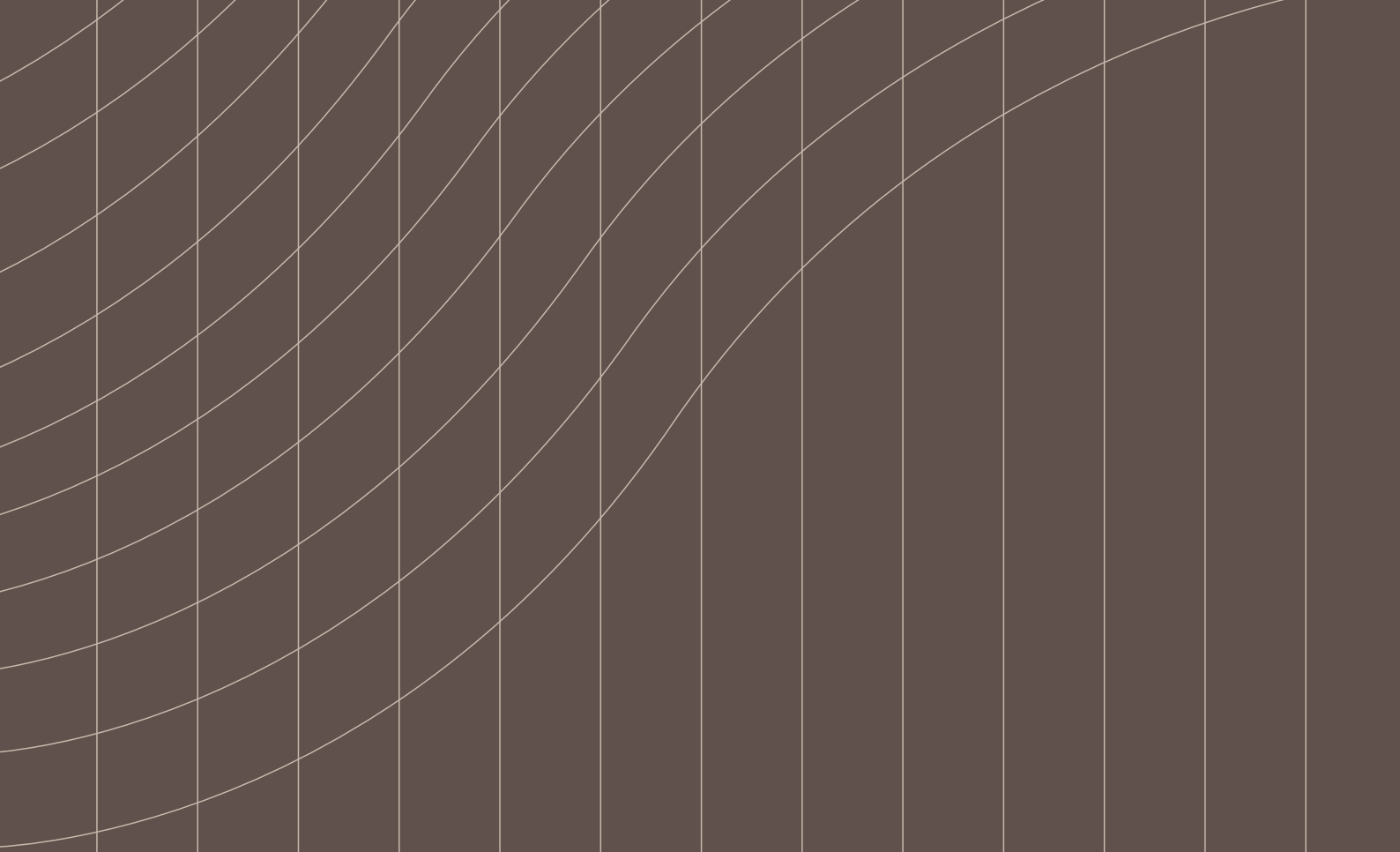
Please note works purchased from this exhibition will be released early and delivered.

Exhibition is held in the Cloisters and Antechapel of New College Oxford

From 17th October 2021-8th July 2022

For opening times, check www.new.ox.ac.uk/nicolas-moreton-exhibition





NEW COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD