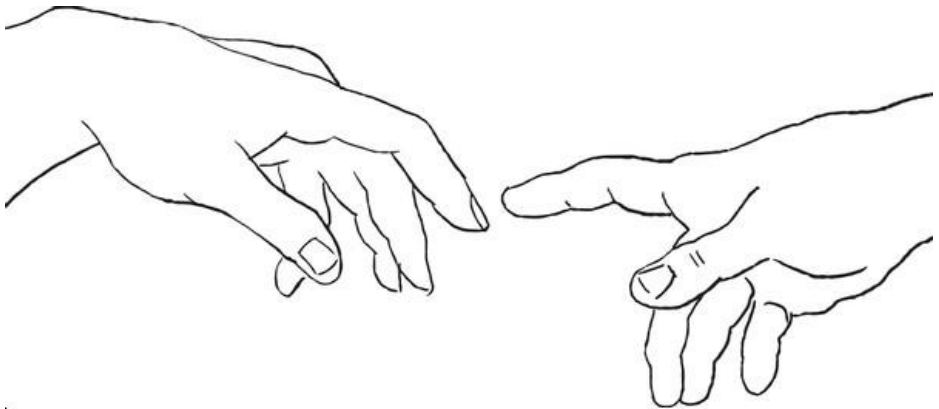


University of Warwick
Sculpture Park

THE
CONNECTIONS
TRAIL



0.8 miles – approximately 1700 steps

Welcome to the Connections Trail

This trail has been created by two members of the Committee that manages the Art Collection here.

Bengy Speer and **Becky Taylor** both live in Coventry. From 2020-22 they were participants in the City of Culture Leadership Programme. As well as taking part in decisions for the development of the Art Collection, they have provided feedback about what it is like to visit the campus and suggested how we might improve the welcome for visitors.

Bengy Speer is a DJ, an artist, a performer and a musician. Becky Taylor is an artist, a poet, a writer and a performer. Together they have helped us to see the campus through fresh eyes. They have created this trail for you.

The trail is about connections. It can be hard to feel connected to new places or to places where you feel like an outsider.

We hope this trail will inspire thoughts and conversations that connect with you and you find your own connections to this place.

Have a great time and let us know how you get on through Instagram @warwickuniart.

Becky and Bengy

Directions

This guide contains walking directions for each section of the route. You may want to pick up a free map of the Sculpture Park in case you want to look at fewer sculptures and return.

Outline description of the route

The trail starts at the Arts Centre and takes in six sculptures. It goes to the Bus Terminus and then follows pavements in an easterly direction around the white Rootes buildings before circling back to Tocil Field, Senate Lawn and then Social Sciences before returning to the Arts Centre. It takes around 30 minutes.

Gradient

The Connections Trail is largely flat. There is a slope which has paved steps from Let's Not Be Stupid to Rootes Road. There is another slope from this point to Red Square which is paved.

Tocil Field has short, rough grass. You will either need to climb a slope to leave or you can retrace your steps to Health Centre Road.

Access

The route follows the paths and pavements of the University. Some of these routes are busy, particularly on the hour when people arrive for or leave teaching sessions.

Three of the sculptures are on grassed areas. You can walk across the lawns to them, but you can also see these sculptures from nearby pavements. After rain, the grass may be muddy and slippery. Please wear appropriate boots and shoes.

An RNIB guide for some sculptures is available from Warwick Arts Centre Box Office.

1. Bus Terminus (Sculpture 10 on map)

Leave Warwick Arts Centre by the main entrance next to Benugos' café. Turn right and walk to the Bus Terminus. Cross two sets of bus lanes to the grassy area next to Gibbet Hill Road.

Laura Ford

Cat 1

2012

Bronze

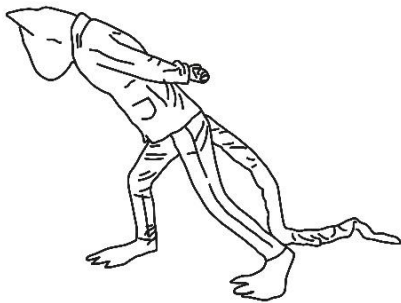
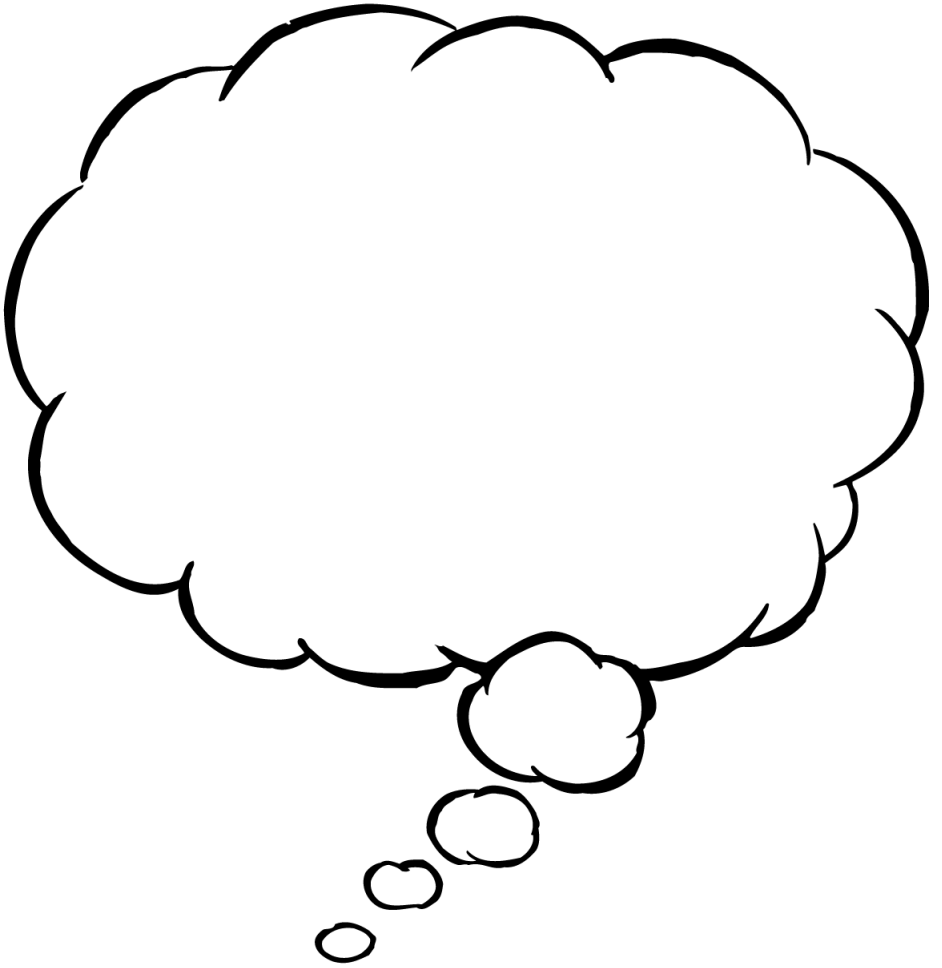
This cat is a beautiful freak. It has a stitched cat's head, a human body, swan's feet and a tail like a rat. But aren't we all beautiful freaks – what is "normal"? How do we connect to people who are different to us?

The cat's head is heavy; so full of weighty thoughts that they can barely see where they are going. They could be a great thinker with ideas that will change the world.

Are they lost? Are they full of sorrow, dragging their tail? Or are they so inspired that they are striding forward, absorbed in their own world? How do you move through your life? Strike a pose!

Sometimes it's good to be a freak – to be brave and not fit in; to be true to who you are and who you want to be. What stops us connecting to points of difference in others?

On the next page, decide what the Cat is thinking about.



2. Air Hall Site (Sculpture 11 on map)

Turn away from the Cat and walk in the same direction as them to the campus exit. Cross the road to the paved area with a large sculpture on it.

Richard Deacon

Let's Not Be Stupid

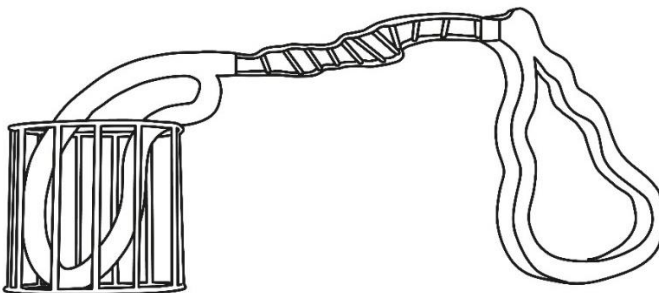
1991

Stainless steel and powder coated mild steel

These two black shapes are connected by a twisting metal ladder-shape. They are connected whether they like it or not. Do they want to be free of each other? Do they want to be together? Is the larger form rescuing the caged shape or it is squashing it into its cage?

The black shapes and the ladder form are organic and full of movement. They are flowing and dynamic. The cage is very different. It's rigid and unyielding.

What cages us? What pushes us? What pulls us?



3. Red Square (Sculpture 12 on map)

Leave this paved area, either by walking down slopes to the Piazza or by walking towards the white Rootes building and down some steps there to the Service Road. Turn right and walk along the Service Road. Then turn left between the two white buildings, one with stilts. Walk past the raised pond and down into Red Square, to the red sculpture there.

Bernard Schottlander

3B

1966

Painted steel

The artist has tried to make a sculpture from universally known shapes and colour. We see the shapes in buildings, rings, hoops and bridges. The colour is also familiar – from clothes to toys to flowers.

Each of us could tell a different story about an experience inspired by a building, a bridge, a red piece of clothing, a flower. The shapes and colour are both universal and very personal. What personal experience does one of these shapes or the colour red make you think about?

Note from Bengy who is a drummer: You could get together with a group and beat out different rhythms with your hands on the various shapes to create a musical composition.

4. Tocil Field (Sculpture 15 on map)

From Red Square, leave by the corner closest to the sculpture and walk in a straight line, across the pathway to Gibbet Hill and between the second set of pale brick Rootes residences. In Health Centre Road, turn left and join the path that is bordered by birch trees. You can either go to the top of the road and turn right or turn right, behind the red brick building where there are apple trees and herbs around a seating area. Enter Tocil Field and go to the sculpture that looks like a stile.

Lucy Tomlins

Concrete Country in Red

2018

Corten Steel

The distorted scale of this stile makes it seem as if either we are children or that we are in a land of giants. The stile should be a way of getting across a boundary but here, it is a big obstacle.

In the story *Going on a Bear Hunt*, the family is faced with lots of different obstacles. They agree, **Can't go over it, Can't go under it, Can't go around it, Got to go through it!**

How might you help someone overcome obstacles?



5. Faculty of Arts frieze

From Tocil Field, make your way back to the University ring road. Cross at the traffic lights outside Oculus and go to the brightly coloured ceramic frieze on the Faculty of Arts Building.

Matthew Raw

Faith in the Miraculous

2021

Glazed ceramics

Tall bands of colour are connected through gaps where the colours on either side come together in swirls. These points of connection look like butterflies, like petals, like sweets.

Looking at the way the two colours merge is a bit like looking at clouds. You can see faces, landscapes and animals in them. You can make connections between the colours that mean something to you now, from the blue and yellow for the Ukraine, to the dark blue and light blue of Coventry City FC strip.

The colours here were chosen by local people from Canley and from the University who spoke about what colours were important to them and why. One person wrote that Canley was a place of peace (white) and of love (red) and this is celebrated in a pink stripe here.

What two colours mean something to you? What happens when you mix them?

6. Senate Lawn (Sculpture 3 on map)

Carry on walking towards the entrance of the Faculty of Arts. Turn left and walk to the large lawn that sits between the Arts Centre and the Faculty of Arts.

Atsuo Okamoto

Forest Planets

2011

Black basalt stone

These stone sculptures look like strange fruits – strawberries crossed with pineapples. They feel as if they have a rough skin but instead of being soft, their interior has solidified and shows in sharp, chipped surfaces.

These stones have come from the core of the earth, reaching the surface through volcanic activity. They have rolled around the seabed of the Indian and Pacific oceans and across different continents. They were formed tens of millions of years ago and have survived innumerable different ecosystems as our world has changed. In only the last five million years have they known human touch.

In touching these stones, we connect ourselves to unknown worlds and other societies. We are part of history but unlike us, these stones will exist for far longer, moving into new ecosystems and societies. Can you imagine what these new worlds might be like? What will endure from our world?

7. Social Sciences Quad (Sculpture 6 on map)

From Senate Lawn, head back towards the Arts Centre but bear right, between the Arts Centre and the Chaplaincy. Follow the path past the Chaplaincy and bear left into the Wisteria Walk. In the next Social Sciences Quad you will see a small stone sculpture next to a crab apple tree.

Peter Randall-Page

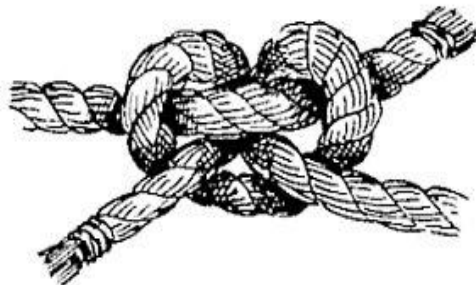
Dark at Heart

1985

Bardiglio marble

Sitting on its stone, the sculpture seems like a small figure that is drooping. It appears to be sad and lonely. We put leaves and the fruit of the tree around it, as if this ceremony might cheer it up.

Its carvings look like the curves of an elephant's trunk, a fossil or a brain. They appear to be knotted together at its centre. Knots are points of connection that give strength. What connections give you strength?



Retrace your steps back to Warwick Arts Centre.

Next time, why not follow a different trail? Pick up
a booklet from Warwick Arts Centre:

Art and Nature Trail
Art and History Trail
Amal's Walk

Upload photos to **Instagram @warwickuniart**

For more information, visit our website
www.warwick.ac.uk/go/art



THANK YOU
PLEASE COME AGAIN