

Four
Public
Artworks

Transform

Milton
Keynes

Transform

In 2008 Michael Pinsky was invited to develop a curatorial proposal for public artworks and interventions in Central Milton Keynes.

In response to this artists have been invited to interpret the Porte Cocheres and other covered walkways. These four temporary artworks are the result of this phase of work.

'The three hundred and one Porte Cocheres populating the centre of Milton Keynes differentiate this town from any other in Britain. These structures, which resemble minimalist sculptures, offer temporary shelter to pedestrians crossing roads and act as markers for the grid of pedestrian routes which weaves through the town.

A Porte Cochere (French porte-cochère) literally 'coach door', is the architectural term for a porch or portico-like structure at the entrance to a building, through which it is possible for a horse and carriage or motor vehicle to pass, in order for the occupants to alight under cover, protected from the weather.'

Michael Pinsky curatorial report 2008

For further information visit milton-keynes.gov.uk/transform

- 1 *MK Menhir*, Sam Jacob
Midsummer Blvd (west)
- 2 *MKportal*, Will Nash
Midsummer Blvd / Saxon Gate underpass
- 3 *Tortoise*, Michel de Broin
Central Library (Lending Library, First Floor)
- 4 *Chromocochere*, David Batchelor
Midsummer Blvd (east)



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Chromocochere

For many years a clock has existed as a kinetic work of art on church towers, railway stations civic and other buildings in towns such as Milton Keynes. In an age of cheap watches and hand-held digital devices, the public function of time telling has been made largely redundant.

'Chromocochere is a large-scale digital clock and a constantly changing spectrum of vibrant

colour. Over the course of an hour the circular work gradually and imperceptibly moves through the colour spectrum. The circular form of the work refers both to the classic shape of a traditional clock but it also refers to the colour circle, which was first developed by Isaac Newton in his analysis of the colour spectrum in 1704.'

davidbatchelor.co.uk



Stainless steel, LEDs and sequencer, 2015

◇ David Batchelor



Hard-coated foam, 2015. Photo: Jim Stephenson

MK Menhir

MK Menhir is a 1:1 replica of a standing sarsen stone from the Avebury stone circle.

The sculpture has a close relationship with the history and culture of Milton Keynes' original design, making a connection with the landscape and ideas that underwrote the concept for the new town. The MK Menhir draws on these ideas by creating an artwork that is both ancient

in its references and modern in its appearance through the iridescent car paint used in its finish.

'The stone sits on the Porte Cochere like a sculpture on a plinth, but this is a plinth that is part of the landscape and the sculpture on top of it is also a fragment of the landscape.'

samjacob.com

◇ Sam Jacob

Tortoise

Tortoise uses 300 miniature Porte Cocheres within the artwork, building on their concept of protection for the wandering pedestrian from the weather. The work suggests a scenario where all the existing Porte Cocheres have uprooted themselves and reconfigured into a new fictional configuration, the formal approach of which is inspired by the Roman 'tortoise formation', a protective strategy.

'By facing out, the Porte Cocheres that were once a place for encounter, have become

a dark inaccessible inner space. The sculpture broadly refers to the utopian aspirations of Milton Keynes, which like the tortoises, are now becoming an endangered species, and we must therefore protect them in these changing environments.'

micheldebroin.org



Brass, 2014

◇ Michel de Broin



Stainless steel and Dibond, 2015

MKportal

Will Nash has transformed an underpass, beneath the junction of Midsummer Boulevard and Saxon Gate, into a hall of mirrors. The installation is inspired by the modern minimal and reflective aesthetic of the commercial centre of Milton Keynes.

'We are living in the age of the selfie, so it seemed to me that the opportunity to be surrounded by multiple reflected images of the self might be an appropriate and welcome metaphor for contemporary life.'

Please tweet your own pictures from inside the portal using #MKportal. Follow @MK_portal to see what happens next.

willnash.co.uk

◇ Will Nash