

Onyo – Samuel Zealey

“Onyo” by Samuel Zealey, sees a layered infrastructure, emerging from the bedrock, which appears to reside at ‘tipping point’. With references to a recognisable, well-loved family game, the sculpture is playful.

The design relates to Bracknell primarily through regeneration; the idea of progress with the continuous building of the structure and a tipping point, leading to a new process of building.

The design also makes a wider statement for the intervention of humans on the landscape. The structure demonstrates the continuous development upwards with each layer getting progressively more modern. This inevitably makes the structure more unstable to reach the present tipping point.

The layers represent a visual history of Bracknell as it starts with archaic materials representing Bracknell’s humble beginning as a prehistoric area, developing systematically to a town through the layers to newer materials higher in the structure. The materials used are:

- granite boulder: bedrock
- stone stage: York stone, slate, marble, yellow granite, pink granite, Portland stone, white granite;
- wood stage: Ekki, Greenheart, Jarrah, Opepe
- metallic stage: copper, brass, powder coated mild steel (orange), stainless steel, mirrored stainless steel, corten steel, aluminium, checkered plate.



Samuel Zealey: “*Onyo stands as a material timeline of humanity’s interventions upon the landscape of this planet. Onyo’s structure protrudes through the most humble of beginnings, which elevates through an eclectic use of materials sourced from the six continents of this planet that humanity occupies, showing physical / theoretical unity and progress through material intelligence. Pedestaled are the most advanced building materials at the pinnacle of Onyo’s makeup which is almost at tipping point - a comment about humanity’s advances throughout the past 700 years and our pending future as a civilisation.*”

Samuel Zealey graduated with an MA in sculpture from the Royal College of Art in 2012. He produces contemporary sculpture for galleries and public art nationally and internationally. Most recently Zealey has developed his Steel Folded Plane Series within the UK, Mexico and soon California. More of Samuel’s work can be found on his [website](#) and [Instagram](#).

Zealey also worked with 430 children as part of South Hill Park Art Centre’s annual Missed! MOLE week exploring materials and contemporary art.

The £20,000 art commission budget was funded by contributions from town centre developers.

With thanks to the following companies for their contribution to the manufacture and installation of Onyo:

Andy R Martin & Associates

ASHWELLS
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