

University of Warwick
Sculpture Park

ART AND HISTORY TRAIL



1.3 miles – approximately 3000 steps

This booklet is designed to be used with the Sculpture Park map.

It gives historical information about the sculptures and the landscape on this trail.

It has spaces for you to draw and to record your ideas and other things you see, so have your pencil ready.

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.

Gradient

The Art and History Trail has a gentle gradient. The steepest area is Leighfield Road.

Access

Users of wheelchairs may want to follow Leighfield Road, stopping at the Sports Pavilion along the way, rather than following the adjacent path through the woodland and across the field. From the Pavilion, follow Leighfield Road onwards and then turn right on the broad bonded gravel path by the Sports Hub

The route takes in grassed areas and woodland paths that may be muddy. Please wear appropriate boots and shoes. The route crosses Gibbet Hill Road where traffic has priority. Please be careful crossing it, particularly if you have young children with you.

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

Outline description of the route

The trail starts at the Arts Centre and then heads south on pavements through the University. It crosses Gibbet Hill Road by Rootes residences and goes up through a small woodland to the Sports Pavilion. From there, the route follows Leighfield Road before heading across fields. It picks up a bonded gravel path and crosses Gibbet Hill Road again. Pavements lead you back to Warwick Arts Centre.

1. Senate House Lawn (Sculpture 3 on map)

Leave Warwick Arts Centre by the side entrance that faces the large, red tiled Faculty of Arts building. On the grassed area between the Arts Centre and the Faculty of Arts you will see three stone sculptures by the artist Atsuo Okamoto.

Atsuo Okamoto

Forest Planets

2011

Basalt

These boulders are the products of volcanic activity in South Asia, about 16-11 million years ago. If stones could talk, imagine all the things these boulders could tell us. What would they describe?

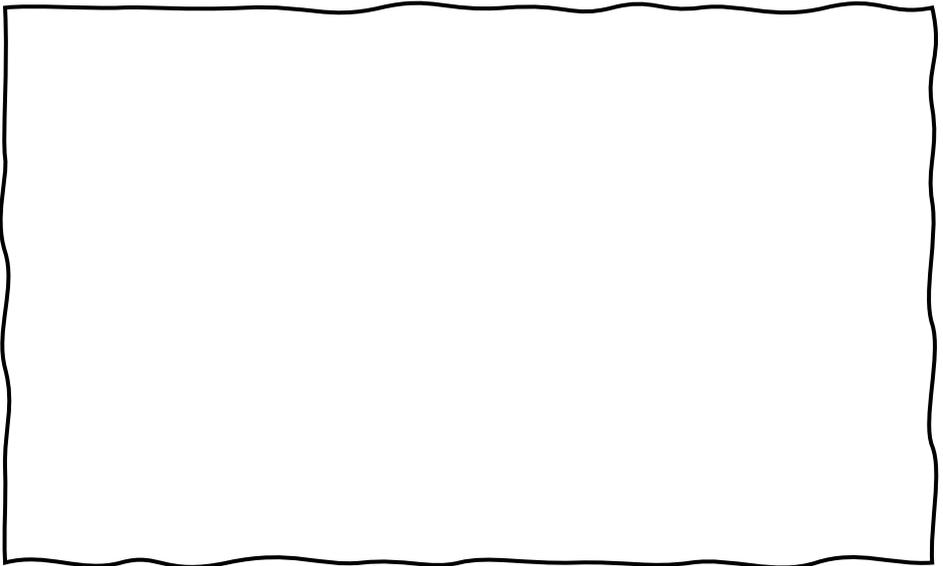
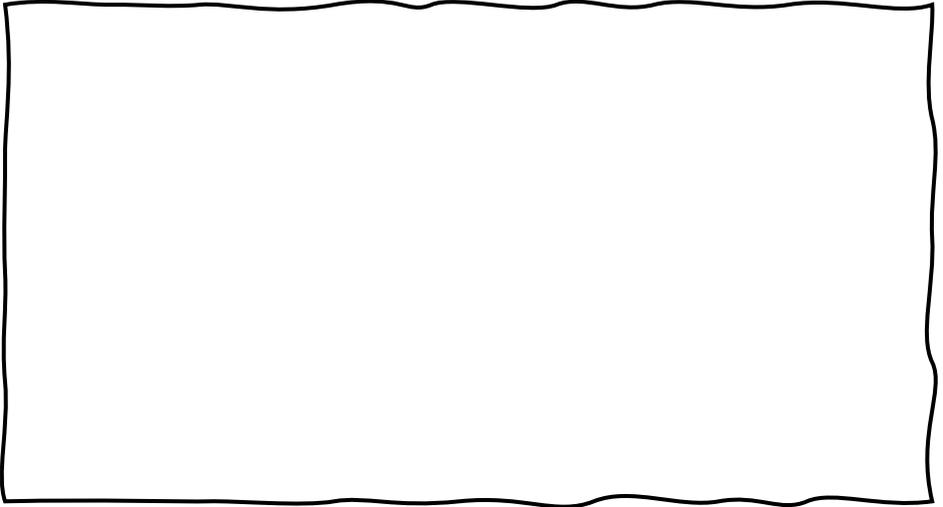
Atsuo Okamoto is Japanese. He was born in 1951 in Hiroshima. On 6 August 1945, the western allies dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima in Japan to try to end the second world war. Over 150,000 people died because of the blast. Almost 70% of the city was destroyed. By the time Atsuo Okamoto was born the city was starting to be rebuilt and, like Coventry, Hiroshima was declared a city of peace.

Atsuo Okamoto believes that stones and rocks hold memories. Their structure and surface show the events that have shaped them over millions of years.

Looking at these boulders, what do you think has happened to them since the moment the volcano pushed liquid basalt to the surface of the earth, millions of years ago? What evidence can you find to support your ideas?

Why do you think the artist carved the boulders into these shapes? What memories do you think he is trying to express?

Do you have an object that holds memories for you? Draw it here and then draw the memory below.



2. Red Square (Sculpture 12 on map)

Cross the road and turn right. Walk past the shops and down into the Piazza towards the Pret café. Walk through the space between the Pret building on the right and the Students Union building on the left.

Go down the steps and bear right into the grassed area with its brick paths.

Bernard Schottlander

3B

1968

Corten and mild steel

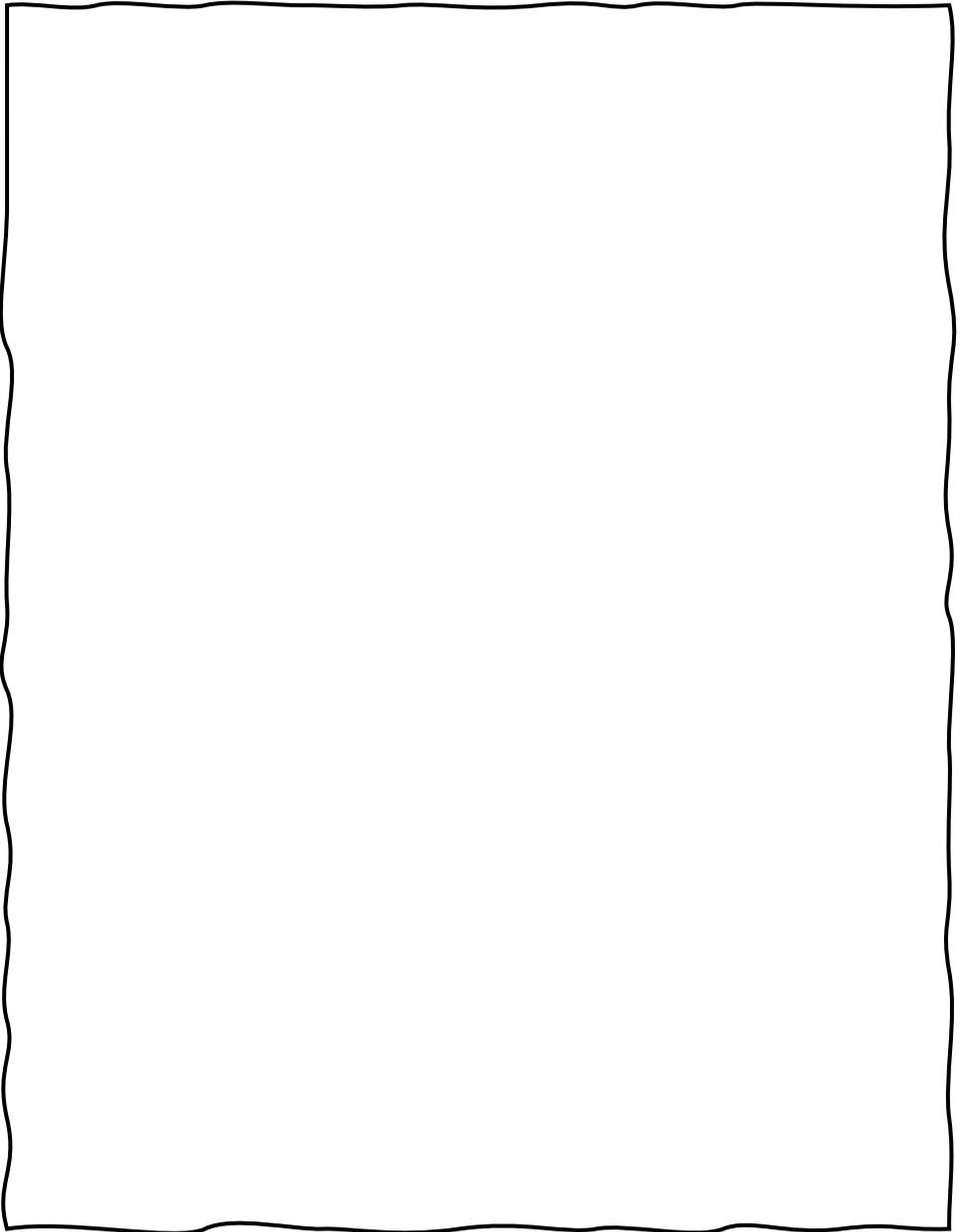
This was the first sculpture bought for the University of Warwick. Its pillar box red colour has given this space its name – Red Square.

The buildings that surround the square were part of the first buildings on campus. They were designed by Eugene Rosenberg who had come to Britain as a refugee during the Second World War. Rosenberg created a space that originally had flat white buildings surrounding a square that was laid out with black and white checked paving. In the middle, he put this bright red sculpture by Bernard Schottlander, another refugee.

After the war, many cities, towns, universities, schools and hospitals commissioned sculptures for public spaces. These sculptures speak of things that unite us.

This sculpture is made up of different mathematical shapes, united by a skin of red paint. The shapes are known to all societies across the world. They seem playful, balancing and precarious, set against the solid white walls of the buildings.

If you were going to put a sculpture in the place where you live, what might it look like if it were going to bring everyone who lives there together?



3. Cryfield sports pitches (Sculpture 18 on map)

Walk away from the sculpture, heading west between the two blocks of white residences. Follow the path round to the left and the car park. Cross the road before the roundabout to Leighfield Road and Cryfield Village residences.

You can either continue along Leighfield Road or cross over and go through a gate to walk up through the woodland on the left-hand side of Leighfield Road.

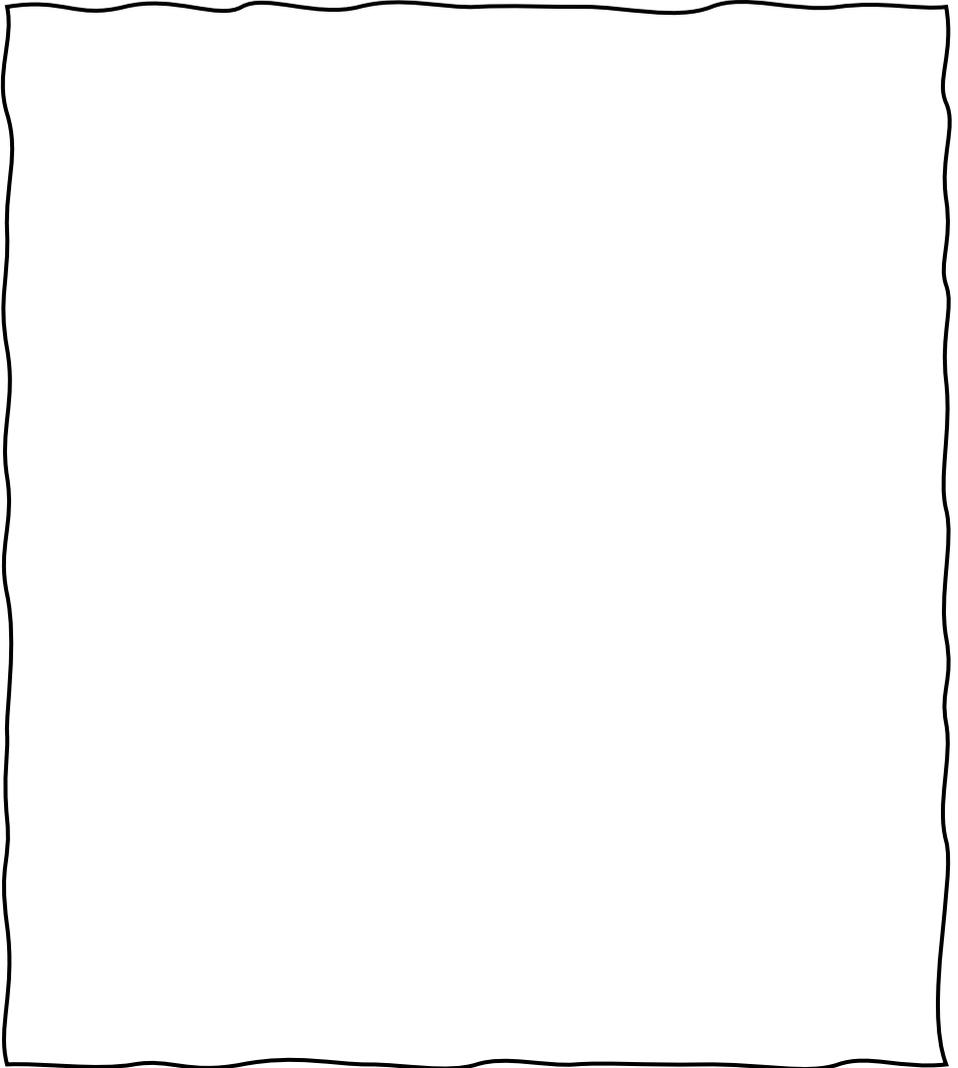
Lotte Thuenker
Black Cube
Belgian Fossil Black Limestone
2013

This land was once part of Cryfield House Farm. It was attached to Cryfield Grange Farm which is over to the south-west, near the Kenilworth cycle path. A large Roman farm or villa once sat on the fields in front of you. By Saxon times the land was part of the royal estate and it was a hunting park for King Ethelred (978-1016). In 1154 Cistercian monks took over the farm, although they only lived here a year before moving to Stoneleigh Abbey and using local labour to work at Cryfield.

You can see the line of trees along the Canley brook in the valley in front of you, beyond the sports pitches. The monks set up a watermill here. A hamlet of 12 houses developed where you are standing as part of Cryfield House Farm.

When Henry VIII broke up the monasteries, the Stoneleigh Abbey and Cryfield land went first to his brother-in-law and then to Lord Leigh in the 1560s. In the 1930s, Lord Leigh sold the land to the city of Coventry and in 1961, the city gave it to the university.

The **Black Cube** looks like a corduroy cushion. It's not that comfortable to sit on however. Make a quick sketch here of the landscape looking towards Gibbet Hill. Include a figure from the past – a Roman, a medieval hunter, a Cistercian monk, a Tudor earl, a 1930s farmer or a 1960s student.



4. Cryfield Sports Pavilion (Sculpture 19 on map)

Carry on up the hill to the Cryfield Sports Pavilion. By November 2021, a sculpture by Tom Waugh will sit on a bench here.

Tom Waugh

Big Takeaway

2018

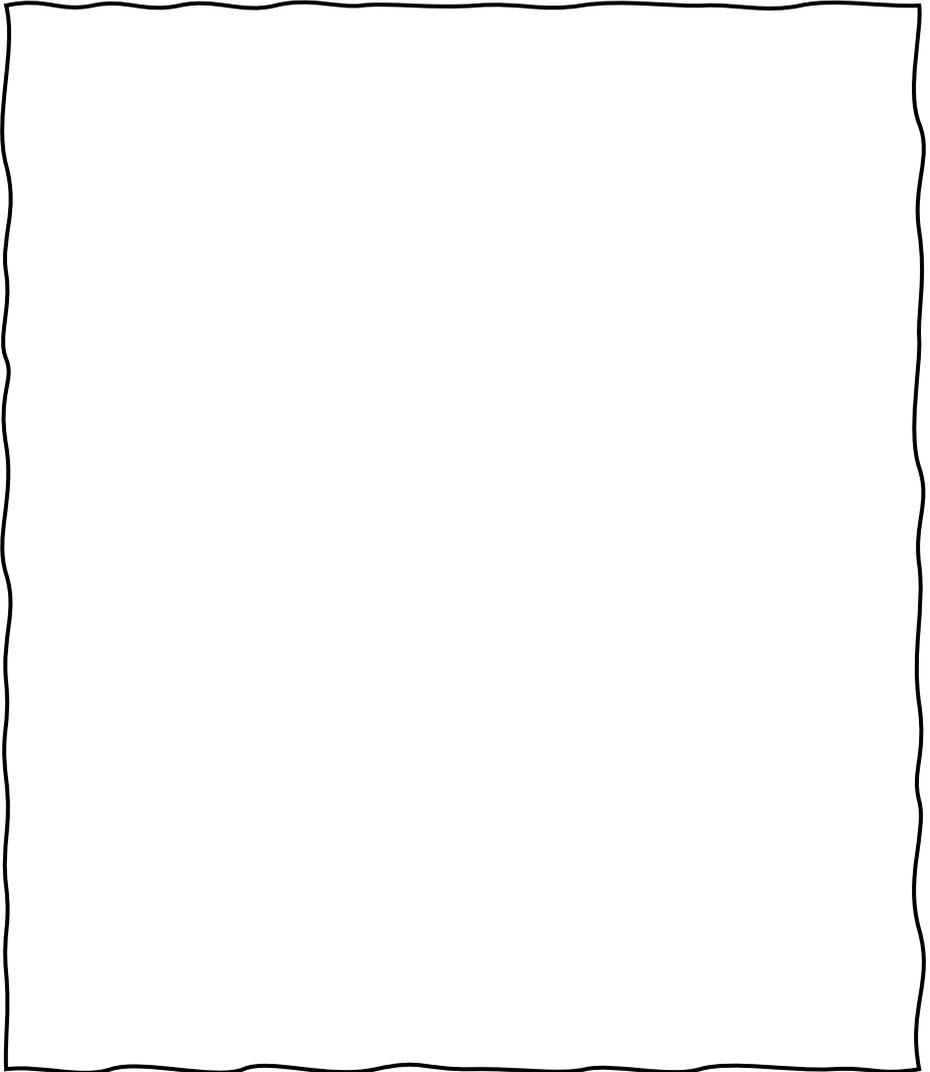
Doulting Stone

This small, sheltered valley with the Canley Brook was obviously a good site for a settlement, from the Bronze Age, through Roman and Saxon times to the medieval and the Tudor periods.

Excavations prior to the construction of the Sports Pavilion uncovered post-holes arranged in a large circle. This suggests there was once a Bronze Age roundhouse here (2500-800 BCE). It would have been about six metres in diameter with a thatched roof extending beyond the main wall of the building and supported on an outer circle of small posts. Nearby there was a Bronze Age rubbish pit containing the remains of a pregnant cow and butchered fox bones.

Using traditional techniques Tom Waugh has transformed this ancient stone, originating from the Jurassic period, to suggest a light, pliable, paper takeaway bag. Echoing the carved drapery of antique statues, he suggests not only the possible objects inside the bag but the folds and creases of its manufacture.

While the Bronze Age inhabitants of this site buried their rubbish here, we hope that all visitors to campus will take their rubbish home with them. Draw what you think is inside Tom Waugh's Big Takeaway bag.



5. Sports Hub Field (Sculpture 22 on map)

Walk back to Leighfield Road. Opposite is Cryfield Farmhouse – a red brick house built in the 1820s. It replaced previous dwellings here that dated back to the 1160s.

Continue to walk along Leighfield Road, away from the main campus and then turn right into a grassy track that has a brick barn wall to the right.

All this area was agricultural land, divided into fields. The field where the Black Cube sits is The Grove Close. The field in front of the farmhouse is the Orchard Close. The field with the track is The Barn Close leading to Heath Close and Rose Close.

The field name ‘Close’, comes from the splitting up of the “great fields”. These medieval fields were a furlong long and divided into strips for different families to work as ridge and furrow planting. ‘Close’ indicates the enclosure of land into smaller fields, usually by hedges, for different owners.

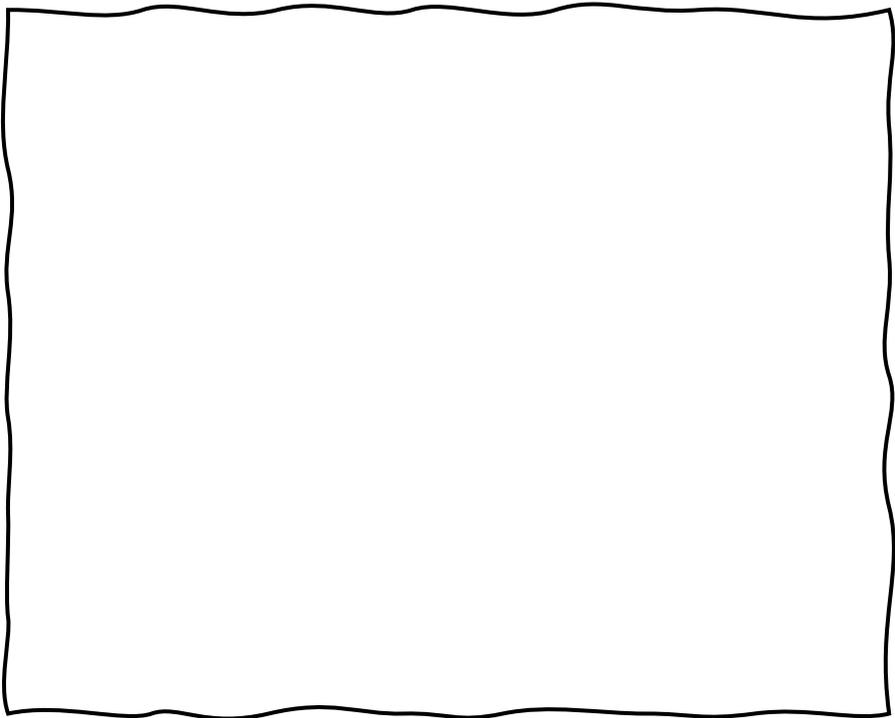
Jake and Dinos Chapman
The Good and The Bad
2019
Corten Steel

Looking across the old Rose Close field, you will see two steel dinosaurs. Dinosaurs were present on Earth during the Jurassic period 201-145 million years ago. At this time, Warwickshire was covered by sea. Dinosaurs are land mammals so the fossilised skeletons from this period in local museums are of ichthyosaurs – dolphin-like reptiles that lived in the ocean. You can still find fossilised shells in the fields today.

Jake and Dinos Chapman subtitled a drawing and a model of the dinosaurs **“The meek shall inherit the earth but NOT the mineral rights”**. It is thought that the originator of this phrase was John Paul Getty, one of the richest men in the world. It implies that you have to be ruthless to succeed.

Arguably, the Tyrannosaurus Rex was the top dinosaur in the food chain. But although successful, it is thought that the entire species was wiped out by an asteroid impact followed by large scale climate change.

Look around you. This area was once sea. It was farmed for hundreds of years. What effect do you think climate change will have on this landscape in the next 500 years? What creatures will be here?



6. Brickyard Plantation (Sculpture 21 on map)

From the dinosaurs, walk back towards the main campus past the hill. This is the highest point on campus. The mound is probably a Bronze Age barrow which was a burial place but also used for community rituals.

This field was called Mill Hill Field. It was the site of a medieval windmill which was probably built using the barrow for its foundations.

The wood between the barrow and the main campus is called Brickyard Plantation. It was planted in the nineteenth century on the site of an exhausted quarry and claypit which was operated as a brickyard by the Leigh estate in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

On the edge of Mill Hill Field, opposite the Brickyard Plantation is a small sculpture set in a triangle of trees.

John Isherwood

Song V

2018

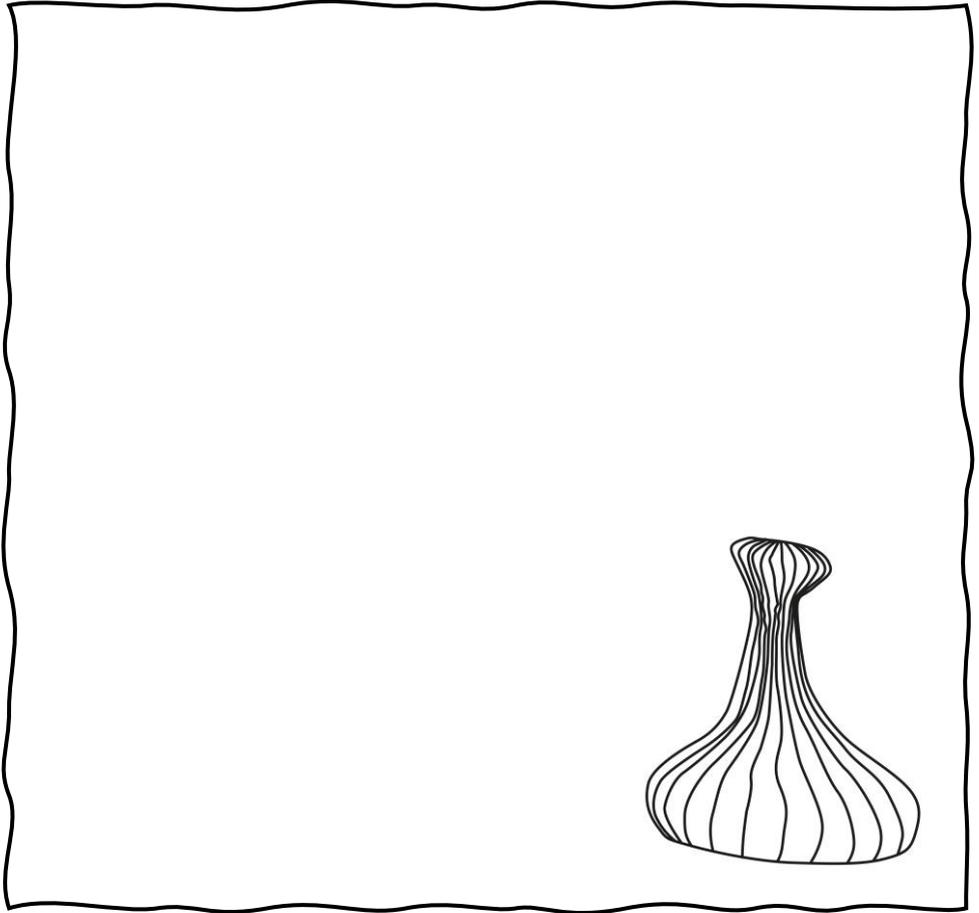
Granite

The road that bisects the campus and acts as the county boundary between Coventry and Warwickshire is called Gibbet Hill Road.

In the eighteenth century, highway robbers would attack people on the Kenilworth Road. In 1765, three men attacked and killed a farmer returning home from Coventry market. They were caught and hanged on a huge gibbet at the crossroads with the Kenilworth Road. Their bodies remained there for over forty years as a warning to others.

Imagine a robber has stolen something from a traveller and in running away, dropped their bag here.

What's inside it?



To return to Warwick Arts Centre, follow the path to Gibbet Hill Road. Cross carefully and walk through the transport hub to Warwick Arts Centre's main entrance.

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

Upload photos from your Art and History
Sculpture Trail to Instagram **@warwickuniart**

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

THANK YOU
PLEASE COME AGAIN

