

# John Packer CV

**Public Art, Sculpture, Bridges, Architectural metalwork. Consultation, design and fabrication. Public consultation and 2d/3d design & blacksmithing workshops.**

Creating artworks for public spaces for 15 years, working principally in metals, incorporating other media such as glass, concrete, and wood.

My work is usually site-specific, ranging from 'functional' items such as railings, street furniture and bridges, to kinetic, musical and static sculptures. Artworks are mainly constructed at the workshop / studio in Bristol, using specialist contractors for production of larger commissions and installation where needed.

I have led various 2-D and 3-D design and creative metalworking/ blacksmithing workshops for people aged 6 to 60 years. Some of these workshops have formed part of urban and rural regeneration projects, and the community consultation process. The output from these workshops has directly or indirectly inspired and contributed to the final design of artworks.

My inspiration is taken from natural forms and phenomena, such as the fractal geometry of shells and plants, and the dynamic patterns of water ripples. My fascination with structures and engineering has also led me into designing bridges as well as experimental structural sculptures.

## Education

MA Fine Art, part-time (first year)  
University of the West of England (UWE) 2005-6

BA(hons) 3 Dimensional design (Industrial Design (Engineering)),  
Birmingham Polytechnic, 1990

Foundation in Art & Design,  
Chesterfield College of Technology & Arts

A' Levels (Maths, Physics, Art)  
Chesterfield College of Technology & Arts

## commissions

- 2011      **Drinking Water fountains, National Trust**, various UK locations, work in progress
- 2011      **Preston Wetland Nature Reserve and Bee Orchid site.** Collaboration with Ecologist and Storyteller Martin Maudsley. [www.brain-gel.com/storysoup/storytelling.htm](http://www.brain-gel.com/storysoup/storytelling.htm) Budget £12k. Work in Progress.
- 2011      **Vortex Sculpture**, Bulwell Joint services Centre, Nottingham, Budget £20k, Work in Progress [www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13647](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13647)
- 2010      **Arcadia Spectacular**, Consultation, design and manufacture of structural components for the 21-tonne Arcadia 'Spider Stage'  
[www.arcdiaspectacular.com](http://www.arcdiaspectacular.com)

- 2010 **Bespoke kitchen design**, private commission, Hathersage. Carved slate and Birch plywood.
- 2010 **Gates and railings**, London Road, Croydon, client Mansell Construction. Budget £29k
- 2008 **Railings**, Crosskeys, South Wales, client Groundworks. Budget £12k
- 2008 **Bargoed Colliery footbridge**, for Caerphilly Council, Wales, span 18m Design commission. Total project budget approx £250k  
[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/pdf/Transport Streets/pengam-footbridge.pdf](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/pdf/Transport%20Streets/pengam-footbridge.pdf)
- 2008 **Vertical Garden Sculptures**, Derby, client Westfield Shoppingtowns LTD. Budget £60k  
[www.bbc.co.uk/derby/content/articles/2008/02/29/vertical\\_gardens\\_2008\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/derby/content/articles/2008/02/29/vertical_gardens_2008_feature.shtml)
- 2008 **Curtain Grills**, Manchester, client Irwell valley Housing association. Budget £45k
- 2008 **Railings**, Crosskeys, South Wales, client Groundworks Caerphilly. Budget £17.5k
- 2008 **Gates & Railings**, The Refinery, Old Market Bristol, Client Robert Sawyer. Collaboration with Kevin Hughes. Budget £24.5k
- 2007 **Porch Canopy & Railings**, private commission
- 2006 **Railings**, Parc cwm Darran, client Caerphilly County Council, Collaboration with Bristol-based artist Kevin Hughes
- 2003-6 **The Sprouting**, Bourton-on-the-Water for Fossway Housing Association. Collaboration with Kevin Hughes
- 2006 **Ventilation Grills**, Tower Wharf, Bristol. Client HBG
- 2005 **Double Helix** sculpture, for Barratt homes, South London, 2005
- 2005 **Woodland Court Gates**, Cotham, Bristol, for Acton Housing Association
- 2005 **Alcombe Sure-Start bridge**, Minehead, span 10 metres for Sure-Start. Short listed for Institute of Structural Engineers international structural awards 2006  
[www.istructe.org/StructuralAwards/2006/Pedestrian Bridges\\_06.asp](http://www.istructe.org/StructuralAwards/2006/Pedestrian_Bridges_06.asp)
- 2004 **'Celtic Otherworld Garden'** sculptures for Westonbirt International Festival of the Garden, 2004.
- 2003 **Sculptural Seating** supported by participative design workshops in Twerton, Bath for North-East Somerset Arts. Collaboration with Kevin Hughes
- 2003 **'Frozen Anima'** screen, Georges Square, Bristol, for Deeley Freed
- 2002 **Bollards**, Walcot Street, Bath for Bath council (BANES) Collaboration with Kevin Hughes

- 2002 'You Are Here (Are You Here?)' etched embedded map, Capricorn Quay, Bristol, for Crosby Homes
- 2002 'One Second Line' embedded panel, Capricorn Quay, Bristol, for Crosby Homes
- 2002 'One Line' Ventilation Grills, Capricorn Quay, Bristol, for Crosby Homes
- 2001 'Double Helix' Sculpture, Filton High School, Bristol
- 2001 'Spirit of Business' Kinetic Sculpture, for New Academy of Business, Bristol.
- 2001 'Parallax Railings', Bristol Buddhist Centre
- 2001 'Grass Railings', private commission
- 2000 'Wishbone Bridge', Godney, Nr Wells, Somerset, 12m span, private commission
- 1999 Helical forms, private commission
- 1998 'Recycled Samba Machine' Kinetic Musical Sculpture, Create Centre, Bristol. Collaboration with Kevin Hughes
- 1996 Custom Motorbike, private commission
- 1995 Wave Railings, Manchester Buddhist Centre
- 1994 Random Kinetic Water Sculpture, St Gregory's School, Sudbury, Sussex
- 1990 Joystick Design and small batch production used in virtual reality computer systems, for Division Ltd.

### Exhibitions

- 2008 'Maquette for a Bridge to Nowhere (no.2)', sculpture selected for Bristol Contemporary Open, Paintworks, Bristol
- 2006 'Maquette for a Bridge to Nowhere', sculpture exhibited at group show, Paintworks, Bristol
- 2005 Chaos Clock, kinetic water sculpture, exhibited at Here Gallery, Bristol

### Creative & Participative Workshops:

- 2010 Sculpture decoration workshops, Southmead Community Centre, Bristol
- 2005 Blacksmithing and 3D design workshops for 'hard to reach youth groups, Twerton, Bath
- 2003 Blacksmithing and 3D design workshops for teenagers, Blandford Forum, Devon.
- 2002 3D design and blacksmithing workshops in Twerton, Bath - targeting 'hard to reach' youths aged 13+ in design and making activities, and consultation for future public artworks.

**1996** Water Sculpture workshops for children aged 6 to 11, St Gregory's School, Sudbury, Sussex

**Other work and qualifications:**

**2001** Diploma in Psychosynthesis counselling

**2001-3** Self-employed Psychosynthesis counsellor (part time)

**1999-01** Interactives Exhibit Developer, Explore At-Bristol

**1998** P/T care work for people with learning difficulties, F&SHCT

**1997** Charity Fundraiser, Karuna Trust

**1991-2** Scratch Animations and projections - business partnership