

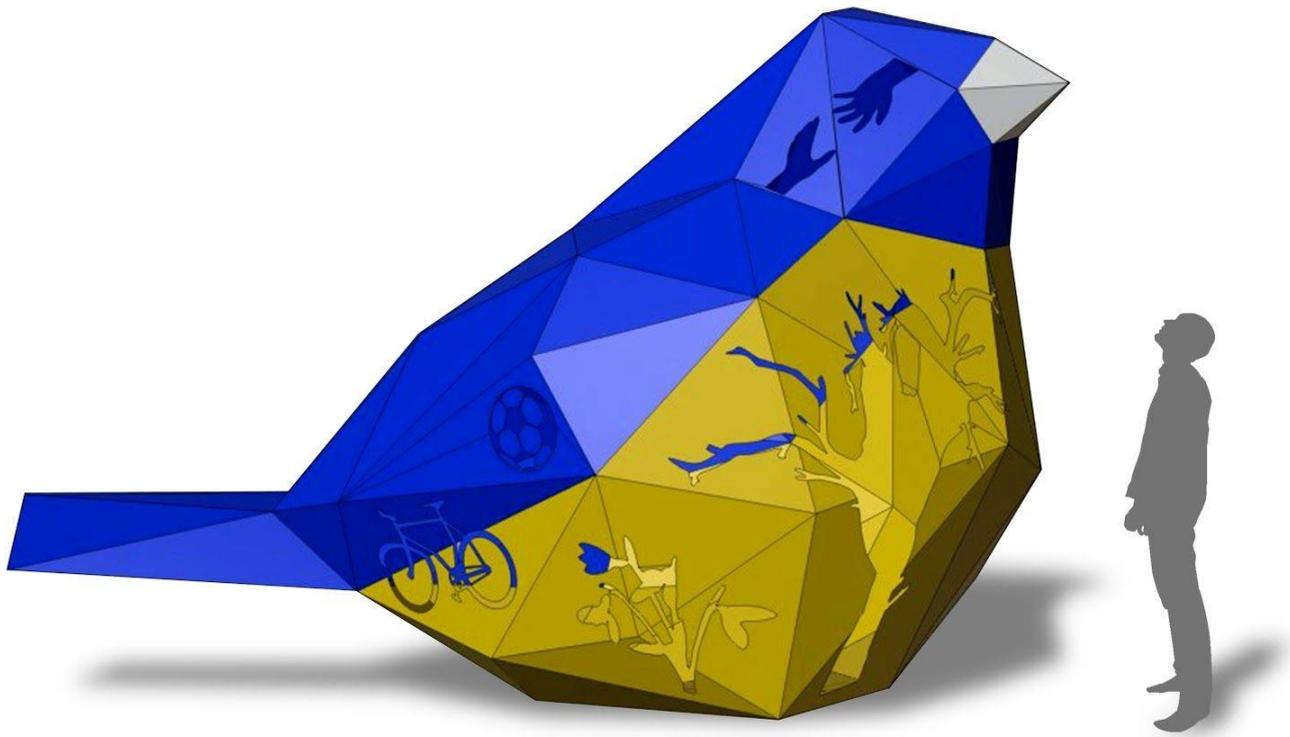
# PICKET PIECE

Public Art Commission

## APPLICATION

By Artist Svetlana Kondakova

03/09/2020



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# Proposal

## Proposed Approach to Project

I propose to create a sculpture every element of which will be designed with the help of the community, taking their inputs as the inspiration for the artwork location, shape, colours and detail. In order to achieve this I will carry out a minimum of six consultations and workshops and two online campaigns, engaging all of the key people and partners indicated in the brief as well as many others, as follows:

### 1. Consultations (2 or more)

The first consultation will be carried out with Leisure Officers, Test Valley Borough Councillors and Hampshire County Councillors, presenting to them the community engagement plan, in order to finalise it together and to invite them to be involved in the activities, as appropriate. This will be followed by a walking and mapping activity with local residents, including the Picket Piece Residents Association and the Walking Group, in an effort to find the most appropriate location for the sculpture. We will also discuss and use photography to document the aspects of Picket Piece which residents enjoy the most.

### 2. Sculpting Workshops & Public Vote on Sculpture Shape (2 or more + online campaign)

The shape of the sculpture will be arrived at through a series of sculpting workshops with children and young people, including the Picket Piece Toddler Group, focusing on the natural assets of the area and local/native wildlife. This activity can also be carried out as a public workshop held at the Community Centre for example. Following the workshops, a shortlist of the most repeated forms will be publicly shared via social media and local press and voted on by the community. The winning shape will then be modelled in 3D in the faceted style and transformed into a printable 2D template, to be used in the next round of workshops.

### 3. Model Making & Design Workshops (2 or more + online campaign)

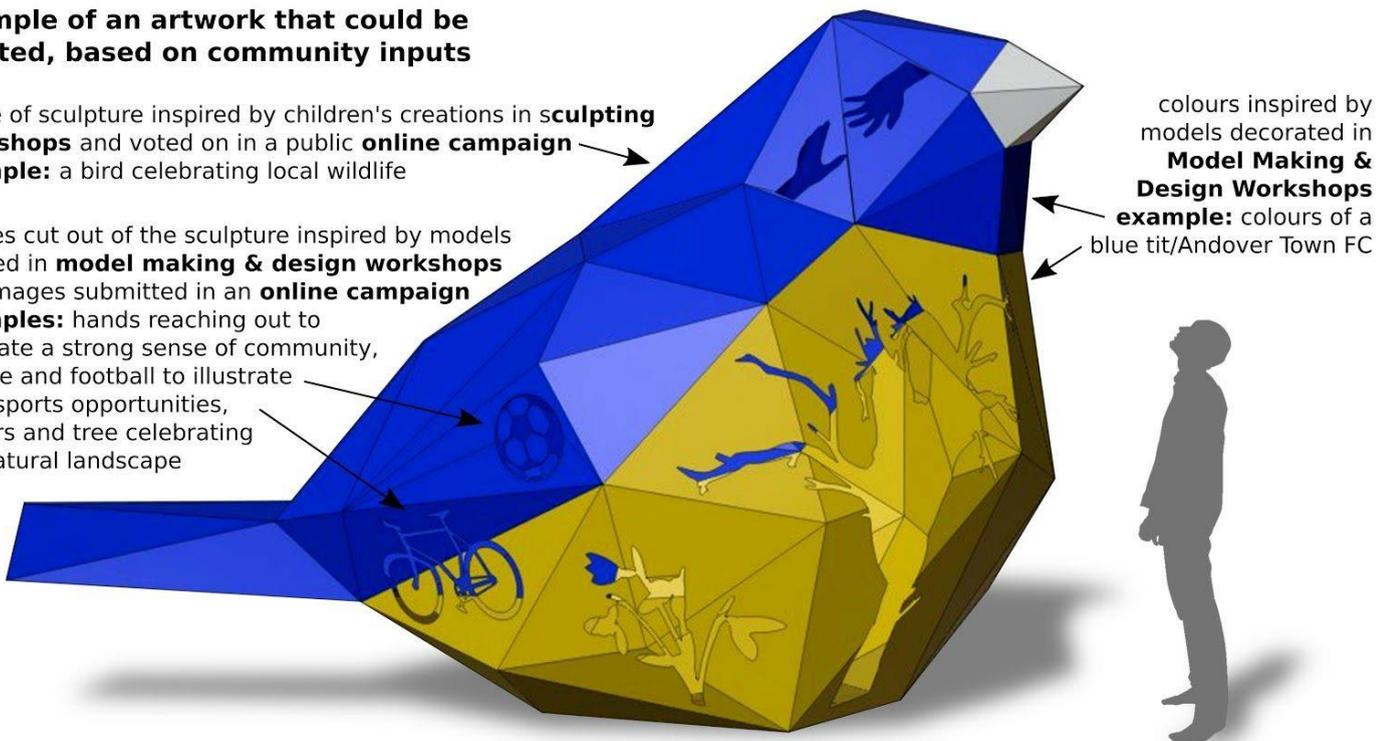
The next set of workshops will involve designing the details of the sculpture by residents of all ages, including the Picket Piece Sports and Social Club and a public event at the Community Centre, by making and decorating small models of the chosen shape. The 2D template will be printed out on card, allowing participants to create 3D scale replicas of the sculpture. They will then be asked to transform their models using a variety of art and craft materials to incorporate colour, text, drawings and photographs on the surface of their 3D shape. The workshops will focus on defined themes - local assets and future aspirations for the area. As an additional source of input from the local community, I will make a public call for submissions of photographs and other images which could be incorporated into the artwork focusing on what people enjoy the most about the place where they live. The colours will be chosen based on the community designs. Drawings, photographs and text will be incorporated into the structure by cutting out shapes to make a light and airy structure which creates fascinating light and shadow effects.

### Example of an artwork that could be created, based on community inputs

shape of sculpture inspired by children's creations in **sculpting workshops** and voted on in a public **online campaign**  
**example:** a bird celebrating local wildlife

images cut out of the sculpture inspired by models created in **model making & design workshops** and images submitted in an **online campaign**  
**examples:** hands reaching out to illustrate a strong sense of community, bicycle and football to illustrate local sports opportunities, flowers and tree celebrating the natural landscape

colours inspired by models decorated in **Model Making & Design Workshops**  
**example:** colours of a blue tit/Andover Town FC



## Fabrication & Installation

Following the approval of the final design by the steering group and key stakeholders, the artwork will be fabricated out of steel, galvanised and painted using a highly durable and weatherproof two-part polyurethane metal paint. The fabrication will be done with the help of Big Red Blacksmiths, a trusted specialist whom I have worked with on a number of projects including *Musselburgh Archer*, *Viridor Tree* and currently *Roman Head*. It will then be delivered to site in manageable sections and installed onto a suitable concrete pad.

## Public Art Experience

I have a track record of six public art projects successfully delivered to date, commissioned by East Lothian Council, Edinburgh Napier University, Scottish Borders Council and Viridor (a UK-wide recycling, renewable energy and waste management company). Three of those have been in collaboration with another artist and three as a solo artist. I have also been commissioned to create a further two public art projects, which I am currently working on, commissioned by West Dunbartonshire Council and West Lothian Council.

I have extensive experience of working closely with communities on public art projects using a variety of engaging methods. In a recent project called ***Musselburgh Archer***, I involved locals of all ages in coming up with wishes for the future of their town, via creative workshops. The final selection of wishes was arrived at through a voting system and engraved onto arrows, forming a sculpture trail around the town. The locations of the arrows were also chosen with the help of local residents, via a consultation and mapping event. As part of another recent public art project titled ***Litter Mural***, I focused on coastal litter as an environmental challenge and facilitated a collective tackling of this problem by working with communities, including 330 school pupils, to collect waste and create artworks out of it. Another example of my community art projects is a large mosaic mural titled ***A Selkirk Legacy***, which was designed and created together with people of all ages in a town in the Scottish Borders. As well as involving local residents in helping to design the artwork, the mural is completed with the community's own mosaics, in the form of 94 leaping salmon, made through a series of workshops held at schools, retirement housing and public spaces.

I have worked on and overseen the installation of all of my public artworks and therefore have knowledge, experience and understanding of how to construct for and install in public spaces. I am also a CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) cardholder having passed the Health, Safety & Environment test as well as having a CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) certificate for completing a Site safety Plus: Health & Safety Awareness course.

Furthermore, I have been the project manager for all of my public art projects, both collaborative and individual. My responsibilities typically include regularly communicating with the clients, conceiving and organising all aspects of community engagement, publicising the projects, ensuring all deadlines are met that all elements of spending are within budget and working with structural engineers. I also have experience in writing planning applications, Risk Assessments, Method Statements, Design Statements, Maintenance Schedules, as well as drawing Site and Location Plans, scale drawings and install diagrams.



*Roman Head, weathering steel, work in progress*



*Viridor Tree, recycled glass, steel and concrete (2019)*

## CV

### Svetlana Kondakova

**Edinburgh-based artist creating sculptures, murals, installations, paintings and mixed media artworks, primarily for the public realm.**

As a public artist, I have a track record of six public art projects successfully delivered to date, commissioned by East Lothian Council, Edinburgh Napier University, Scottish Borders Council and Viridor (a UK-wide recycling, renewable energy and waste management company). I have also been commissioned to create a further two public art projects, which I am currently working on, commissioned by West Dunbartonshire Council and West Lothian Council.

I have skills in 3D-modelling, life-casting, mould-making, sculpting, construction and working with upcycled materials. Having project managed and overseen the installation of all of my public artworks I have knowledge, experience and understanding of how to construct and install in a variety of public and outdoor environments.

### Current Public Art Projects

***Roman Head* - 6x6.6m corten steel sculpture of a Roman centurion head**, in collaboration with Big Red Blacksmiths, commissioned as part of a wider "Rediscovering the Antonine Wall" project, managed by a Steering Group of five local authorities and Historic Environment Scotland, expected completion - 2020

**Memorial Artwork**, sculptural artwork commissioned by West Lothian Council for the Almondell Cemetery, East Calder, in consultation & collaboration with the local community, expected completion - 2021

### Past Public Art Projects

2019 (August) ***Musselburgh Archer* - life-sized bronze statue and sculpture trail**, in collaboration with Maja Quille and the local community, commissioned by East Lothian Council for Musselburgh, UK

2019 (August) ***Litter Mural* - 4x2m mural made with local communities, entirely out of East Lothian's coastal litter** commissioned by Viridor for the Visitor & Education Centre of their ERF facility, Dunbar, UK

2019 (February) **Viridor Tree - 5m-tall recycled glass, steel and concrete sculpture** commissioned by Viridor located outside the Visitor & Education Centre of their ERF facility, Dunbar, UK

2018 **A Selkirk Legacy - approx 30m-long mosaic mural** commissioned by Scottish Borders Council, a Community Art Project as part of the Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme, Scottish Borders, UK

2014 **Imprint - approx 3x3m 2-part sculpture**, in collaboration with Maja Quille, commissioned by Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh, UK

2014 **Tree of Knowledge - approx 2.5x4.5m interactive sculpture**, in collaboration with Maja Quille, commissioned by Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh, UK

### **Professional Experience**

2016 – 2017 Vice President, Rootsi Arcadia, natural agriculture social enterprise, Greece

Roles included: community building and public engagement with natural agriculture and sustainable living through art; running workshops, facilitating artists in residence and creating land and environmental artworks.

June 2016 Art Expert Evaluator, European Commission

Role: to evaluate funding proposals for ICT-Art projects for the European Commission as an art expert.

2012-2016 Co-founder and Director of Black Cube Collective, independent art organisation

Roles included: representing artists in two major European Commission-funded projects leading to new streams of funding for interdisciplinary practices; creating accessible professional development opportunities for new and emerging artists; organising international events and workshops; curating exhibitions.

### **Education Profile**

2007-2011 Edinburgh College of Art, BA (Hons) Drawing & Painting

2010 Athens School of Fine Art, Erasmus Exchange, completed modules: Painting, Mosaic

### **Other Qualifications & Certificates**

CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) cardholder for Health, Safety & Environment test pass

CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) certified Site safety Plus: Health & Safety Awareness course Full

UK Driving Licence

Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) certificate holder (Disclosure Scotland)

### **Artist Residencies**

2015, 2016 Rootsi Arcadia, Routsis, Greece

2011-2012 Sustainable Bolivia, Cochabamba, Bolivia

### **Selected Exhibitions**

2016 Seven Deadly Sins, Union Gallery, Edinburgh, UK (solo)

2014 ATHENS, Athens, Greece (group);

2014 Art Rooms, Cockenzie House, East Lothian, UK (group);

2013 New Ideas for the City, State Museum of Urban Sculpture, St Petersburg, Russia (group);

2012 ICT & Art Connect, Galerie Libre Cours, Brussels, Belgium (group);

2012 Una HOJA Muchos ROSTROS, Martadero, Cochabamba, Bolivia (group)

**7/5 Montagu Terrace, Edinburgh, EH3 5QX, UK**

**+44 7975715415**

svetakondakova@gmail.com

[www.svetlanakondakova.com](http://www.svetlanakondakova.com)

## Examples of Previous Relevant Projects

### Example 1: *Musselburgh Archer*

Medium: bronze, stainless and galvanised steel

Dimensions: archer 180 cm tall, arrows of varying sizes

Year completed: 2019

Location: Musselburgh, East Lothian, UK

Commissioned by East Lothian Council, collaborative project with artist Maja Quille



The artwork comprises a life-size bronze archer on the Esk riverbank by the Roman Bridge and 15 arrows at different locations around Musselburgh. Inspired by local history, the archer and arrows represent three important aspects of Musselburgh heritage - the Roman invasion in AD 80, the battle of Pinky Cleugh in 1547 and the Musselburgh Silver Arrow, which dates back to 1603 and is claimed to be the oldest sporting trophy in the world.

The arrows are engraved with the community's wishes for the future of Musselburgh, which have been gathered and voted on in community workshops organised as part of the project. Installed in a variety of ways, and including one

## ANNEX 2

oversized arrow made by repurposing a disused pole, they form a trail which leads people to sites which are important to the town in terms of history, culture, nature and community, highlighting its assets and reasserting the town's identity. There is a map showing the arrow locations at the feet of the archer which doesn't give away too many details, inviting participants to experience Musselburgh through an adventurous route of discovery.

Since the sculpture was installed, the people of Musselburgh have taken ownership of it by dressing 'Archie' up in outfits that represent festivities, local events and the changing times and sharing them on his facebook group which is quickly approaching 1000 followers. His outfits and accessories have included: an elf outfit at Christmas; a rainbow dress with matching accessories for Pride; as horse rider's outfit for the Riding of the Marches; a nun's habit to promote a local youth theatre production; Black Lives Matter posters and various items of PPE. The Musselburgh Area Yarn Bombers have also knitted him a target placed across the river and more recently a cone for his head and some toilet roll!



## Example 2: A Selkirk Legacy

Medium: glass and ceramic mosaic mural

Dimensions: approx total 30m x 180cm

Year completed: 2018

Location: Selkirk, Scottish Borders, UK

Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme Community Art Project commissioned by Scottish Borders Council



A Selkirk Legacy is a 30-metre long mosaic mural on a flood defence wall. The largest part of the mosaic at one end of the wall portrays participants of Common Riding in a variety of roles throughout the years, creating a historical narrative of the community. This aspect of the artwork was designed together with Selkirk residents, based on images, ideas and information provided by them. Common Riding is an old tradition in the Scottish Borders, dating back over 500 years, of riding on horseback around the common land boundaries to protect them from encroachment.

A kelpie, Scottish mythological water demon, occupies the other end of the wall symbolising the River Ettrick and the floods. A local hero, elected by Selkirk citizens via a vote, is shown taming the creature, protecting the town from its destruction. This acts as a metaphor for the flood protection scheme and relates to the original purpose of Common Riding.

The mural is completed with 94 leaping salmon mosaics, representing native wildlife, made entirely by locals of all ages in a series of seven workshops, including two at local primary schools and one at retirement housing. The fish form a trail along the 200-metre flood defence wall, connecting two bigger mosaics at each end of it.





# References

## **Lesley Smith**

*(Musselburgh Archer project)*

Principal Arts Officer, East Lothian Council

The Brunton, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh EH21 6AA

0131 665 2240 07779022617

[lsmith@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:lsmith@eastlothian.gov.uk)

## **Conor Price**

*(A Selkirk Legacy project)*

Previously Senior Project Manager, Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme

Currently Director, CPE Consultancy

CPE Consultancy, Ground Floor 2 Old Engine House, Musselburgh EH21 7PE

0131 285 8875 07525 742361

[conor.price@cpeconsultancy.com](mailto:conor.price@cpeconsultancy.com)