

16 March 2016

Elisabeth Frink sculptures inspire Cosford arts project

With some help from a group of local school children, the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford will be embarking on an arts led project, inspired by the work of British sculptor Dame Elisabeth Frink. For the duration of this project, two Elisabeth Frink sculptures from the museum's collection will be displayed together at Cosford for the very first time and will inspire youngsters to create their own masterpiece.

The sculpture project aims to engage younger visitors with more unusual artefacts from the museum's collection. The larger bronze sculpture is normally held in storage at the RAF Museum's London site, but has been brought to Cosford especially for this project. The two examples of winged figures sculptured during the 1960s, both resemble a man's legs morphing into a bird, representative of her work during that period. Some of her most famous work includes the 'Walking Madonna' at Salisbury Cathedral, 'Risen Christ' at Liverpool Cathedral and 'The War Horse' at Chatsworth.

Frink was one of the most influential female sculptures of the 20th century, creating art from the 1950s up until her death in 1993. She was most notable for her bronze sculptures which varied in scale and feeling, but always fell into five main themes: war and flight, beasts, religion, heads and man. By far her greatest obsession was with mankind and she was deeply critical of the male psyche, man's inhumanity to man and refused to indulge in the glorification of war. She broke boundaries, exploring new territories and was always moving forward experimenting with new approaches in response to what was happening in the world around her.

On 1 March this year, a group of pupils from Regency House School in Worcester began the first stage of the sculpture project being led by the Access and Learning team at the RAF Museum Cosford. The participating pupils, studying art GCSE visited the museum and took part in a sculpture workshop, run by Marie Cooper from Wolverhampton Art Gallery. During the workshop children studied the Elisabeth Frink sculptures on display, before using an easy to mould wax and bronze paint to experiment with their own ideas, inspired by Frink's work.

Two schools are taking part in this exciting new project and in April, students from Abraham Darby Academy in Telford will also take part in the sculpture workshop. After getting their sculptures underway at the museum, pupils from both schools will continue their work back in the classroom, using other materials including mod-roc, clay and wire frames, to build a sizeable sculpture of their own, building on the knowledge they have gained during the workshop. Whilst the hands-on work is underway in the classroom, students are encouraged to carry out further research into the topic and look into the life experiences that inspired Frink's work.

During the summer term, the students will be invited back to the RAF Museum for a special unveiling event, where their completed sculptures will go on display alongside those of Elisabeth Frink. The student's

sculptures will be displayed in the museum's Visitor Centre throughout the summer and will be enjoyed by thousands of visitors.

RAF Museum Cosford Education Assistant Lisa Fawcett said:

"Working with the Frink sculptures from the collection has been a real privilege. The students offered their personal responses to works that can be challenging to interpret and have made this project a real success."

The project has been made possible thanks to the support of the Wrekin Decorative and Fine Arts Society (Wrekin DFAS), a charity dedicated to promoting interest and understanding in the arts for all ages. Later this year Wrekin DFAS will sponsor a lecture on Frink by an expert on the subject, which will be open to participating students and interested members of the public. Keep an eye on the museum's website for details.

For further information about the museum, please visit www.rafmuseum.org/cosford or call 01902 376200. The museum is open daily from 10am and entry to the museum is FREE of charge.

Ends...

Notes to Editors:

- Students from Abraham Darby Academy will be taking part in sculpture workshops at the RAF Museum Cosford on 12 and 19 April 2016 during the afternoon. The media are invited to attend the workshop for photos and interviews about the project.
- Keep up to date with the latest news and event information by following us on:



@rafmuseum



rafmuseumcosford



@rafmuseum

- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily from 10am
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge.
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at: <http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Morgans on 01902 376212 or email michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org
- All images used should be credited: '©Trustees of the Royal Air Force Museum'