

Kenny Munro, Sculptor

CV and Projects

I remember Nigel MacIsaac who was Head of the new art department at Barnton. After we'd moved from Regents Road around 1966. I last bumped into Nigel about 1994 at the Scottish Art Club.

In my Sixth Year Studies, about 1971, Nigel and colleague Jimmy Goodall encouraged me to make my first piece of 'public art sculpture,' for RHS, inspired by the suspended whale's skeleton; then in the Chamber Street Museum. The Schola Regia magazine at the time gave my sculpture a page. The whole experience however was a baptism of fire, literally, also character building. I cut the recycled steel plates with an oxy-acetylene torch, then welded 'vertebrae' sections together to create a 3metre high vertical feature in a builders yard in Musselburgh. Unfortunately, when complete and enroute to the New School, on the back of a lorry, the sculpture was damaged. With help from the RHS groundsman (with pulleys-block and tackle) it was straightened out and I re-welded it on site, at the school, after it had been installed in the grass 'quadrangle' My dad Jim drove me right up to the sculpture to fix it with the welder and I have an atmospheric photo from that adventure. Poor Nigel then cut his head on it, and as soon as the new principal saw the piece it was secretly removed - no doubt to the nearest scrap-yard.!



Nothing daunted, I entered Edinburgh College of Art, then the Royal College of Art London, after a year creating Town Art in Livingston, and have meandered down the creative river of life for nearly 50 years.

I've been involved in quite a variety of projects, taking me round Scotland and Ireland with George Wyllie, a time in Norway and with colleagues on exchange projects in southern France, India and Australia.

Much of my creed has been driven by the living legacy of ecologist Sir Patrick Geddes (1854 - 1932), and I'm currently the 'chair' of the Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust. Also this year we, the Munro family, have celebrated my dad's creative centenary (James B Munro 1925-1990), with various group exhibitions, events and an updated website for Jim. My Father Jim's stainless-steel sculpture 'Quartet' is one of the very few artworks in the Scottish Parliament His website is at www.jamesbmunroartist.co.uk. Sculpture clearly runs in the veins of the Munro family, as Kenny's brother Gordon also practices the distinguished art. Gordon attended RHS Primary school from 1968 -1974, but defected to George Heriots as the family home was not in the RHS Barnton's catchment area. Gordon's website is at www.gordonmunro.co.uk

The link to film has also been interesting both making some 'shorts' and re- discovering filmmakers Bill Douglas and Jim Allan Wilson from BBC, (who made an early film about Geddes). I made two sculptures as a tribute to Bill Douglas, one at Newcraighall, the other at Exeter University, the location of the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum. I contributed last year to the new documentary entitled 'Bill Douglas - My Best Friend' made by Hopscotch Films and screened by BBC Scotland.

It's significant, isn't it, that the powerful Regent Road Building in which I studied is now being transformed into the Scottish National Music Centre. Just four hundred yards down the road, towards Abbeyhill, in Regent Road Park, I worked with several artists and communities to create 'The Stones of Scotland' in 2000, which holds a ring of stones from each of the thirty-two Regions of Scotland. Elements of poetry stones will be added to next month. The Stones of Scotland installation even has its own flourishing Scots Pine.

My Projects and references

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Birds of East Lothian

<https://www.dunbararttrail.com/birds-of-east-lothian>

Newcraighall Station – Bill Douglas tribute

<https://www.craigmillarnow.com/craigmillar-art-trail/project-one-f5w4d-sbpek-atzxl>

Muir's globe, Dunbar

<https://www.dunbararttrail.com/muir-s-globe>

The Public Statues and Sculptures Association

Kenny Munro (b. 1954)

Sculptor and teacher working in a wide range of materials and idioms, and with a strong emphasis on community participation. Born in Edinburgh, the elder son of the sculptor and jazz musician James Munro, he studied at Edinburgh College of Art (1972–77). After travelling on a postgraduate scholarship to Norway, and a period working as an environmental artist at Livingston new town, West Lothian, he went on to complete a course in foundry practice at the Royal College of Art, London (1980). Much influenced in his approach to art and its role in society by the writings of Patrick Geddes, he has exhibited in group shows at the Collège des Ecosaise in Montpellier, France (1992 and 1993), and has had solo exhibitions in Edinburgh (1988), Stornoway, Outer Hebrides (1994) and Selkirk, Scottish Borders (1995). Among his public commissions are [Stones of Scotland](#) – with George Wyllie and Lesley May Miller – Regent Park Road, Edinburgh (2000–02); [The Pyramid Stone](#), a structure decorated with bronze badges designed by children from five local primary schools, at Renfrew, Renfrewshire (2005); *Tempus Fugit*, a homage to the actor and playwright Neil Munro, at Musselburgh, East Lothian (2009), and [Reflected Vision](#), a mirrored stainless-steel structure erected at the University of Exeter (2015) as a memorial to the Scottish film maker Bill Douglas. Munro currently lives and works in Kinghorn, Fife.

ArtUK illustrated article

<https://artuk.org/discover/artists/munro-kenny-b-1954>

Luath Publishers

From the Ganges to the Tay

<https://luath.co.uk/pages/kenny-munro>

The Pyramid Stone

Kenny Munro (b.1954) Lapwing Road, Renfrew, Renfrewshire -

https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/the-pyramid-stone-301738/search/actor:munro-kenny-b-1954/page/1/view_as/grid