

# Experience the Sculpture Park

*A handbook to help our guests to make the most of their visit*





# Experience the Sculpture Park

An explorers handbook, developed and designed by Sybille Schlumbom

Arts Educator The Sculpture Park @ Waitakaruru Arboretum

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# History of the Arboretum and Sculpture Park

Waitakaruru Arboretum has been in the process of development since 1991; this is a rehabilitation of a disused quarry. This 17.5 ha (42 acre) hillside site provides panoramic vistas over the fertile Waikato valley.

The site contains intimate tree-enclosed spaces and interesting land forms including towering cliffs, rocks, a stream, many ponds, and small waterfalls. More than 20,000 trees and shrubs have been planted, representative of flora from many parts of the world.

The first sculpture park event held here was in November 2003 when 47 sculptures were displayed as part of the “Window on Waikato” fundraiser on behalf of Hospice Waikato.

The attractive outdoor setting, ease of vehicular access to place large sculptures, and security all proved to be assets not easily provided in other locations. The idea of providing a venue for sculpture grew out of that success.



The Sculpture Park & Arboretum has been open every day since November 2004, each year holding a full annual programme of exhibitions -- three new exhibitions annually. The exhibitions are situated along a two kilometre long trail which loops around the Park. Most visitors allow at least 1 ½ hours to explore it.

The quarry cliffs and pond area provide a visual and acoustic setting for musical performances. Over 9000 now visit the Park annually.

The Waikato Sculpture Trust was formed in May 2007. The sculpture exhibitions in the Park are organized by the Trust Board. For each exhibition an independent curator is employed. The Trust Board also employs a part-time arts administrator and part-time arts educator. The Trust Board is reliant on the commission from sales of sculpture to keep up its programme of exhibitions.

In 2011 the Park became a permanent carbonsink and qualified for carbon credits under New Zealand’s carbon trading scheme.

A tree guide to the arboretum is available to purchase.

## Regular curated exhibitions

(See <http://www.sculpturepark.co.nz/arboretum/events> for details)

Exhibitions	Description	Events
June - November	Winter Collection	Main Trail of Sculpture Park
October - November	RE:FRACTION Outdoor Glass Sculpture exhibition	Rock Garden and Asian Section of Park
November - February	Summer Exhibition	Main Trail of Park
March - May	Autumn Exhibition	Main Trail of Park

The Trust encourages visitors to engage with its exhibitions and the park setting. The Park is a great place for visitors of all ages to enjoy the creativity of others and to foster creative thinking. The Trust's part-time arts educator generates ideas to help families and schools get more out of each visit. Tap into these resources to get more fun from your next visit to the Park- print off your activities before you arrive or borrow a version while here.

For each of these exhibitions, a small catalogue with a map is produced and is available as part of your entrance . It lists the sculptures with a numbering system and includes a statement from the curator. Visitors follow this guide as they walk around the Park.

For those who want a deeper understanding or to prepare for a school visit, the artists' statements describing the concept behind each of the sculptures or installations can be viewed in a book at the café area or emailed ahead upon request to [arteducator@sculpturepark.co.nz](mailto:arteducator@sculpturepark.co.nz) .

The Trust publishes books of exhibitions when it can. These are a valuable resource for schools. These books can be purchased at any time. The current price is \$35.00 each. Copies of the book of the most recent exhibitions can still be purchased.

# Health and safety

## Policies for group or school visits

- Year 1-4: 1 support person for up to 4 students (the ponds and streams that are part of the landscape require a high ratio for younger students)
- Year 5-8: 1 support person for up to 6 students
- When visiting the glass exhibition not more than two groups (12 students + support persons at a time) in the exhibition area (the rock garden)
- Children should be supervised at all times. The fire ring area is a play area but please supervise the children, there is a stream nearby
- Make an appointment for the time of your arrival, someone will meet you and give you a general introduction to the Park ( [info@sculpturepark.co.nz](mailto:info@sculpturepark.co.nz) )
- Please encourage a “naked lunch policy” (no plastic wrappers and pre-packed snacks)-, as we don’t provide rubbish bins and ask visitors to take from the Park what they bring to the Park
- Please read the general health and safety requirements below

Known Hazards; General for all visitors	Rules/actions/procedures
Due to the cliffs, ponds, streams, and uneven ground found throughout the park.	All visitors are not to leave the roads, paths and designated congregational areas at any time. All children must be supervised at all times by parents/ caregivers.
Due to the potential danger of dogs for visitors & wildlife and the bait stations located throughout the property.	All dogs must be kept inside their owner’s vehicle, preferably in the shade of the trees alongside the drive beyond the bridge. Dogs maybe exercised in the autumn colour section provided they are kept on a lead
Due to the risk of fire.	A no smoking rule applies to the entire property at all times.
Due to occasional vehicle traffic	The Park is predominantly a pedestrian area. However, the car park is well-used and occasionally the driveways are accessed by vehicles. Visitors should be alert to potential traffic.

Please note: There is always a staff member or volunteer on site. Please let that person know if there is any health and safety issue. For example, if someone is injured, if a branch has fallen over a path recently or a swarm of bees is hanging on a tree. The Park has a first aid kit which is accessible to the person on duty.

*Find your way*





# Methods of sculpture making: Environmental Sculpture

## What is it?

This art form encompasses landart, earthart, and sustainable art. They all have in common the use of natural materials that have a low impact on the environment. They are often created for a specific site. To work on an environmental art piece you might include assembling, weaving, re-arranging, growing, trimming or imprinting objects in the environment you choose. Use natural materials as you find them: such as sand, leaves, rocks, twigs, mud, snow, smoke, grass, or ice.

Methods of working are also important. As an example, Andy Goldsworthy doesn't take any tools when he goes out to create his artwork. For joining leaves, for example, he uses twigs and thorns. He photographs his work before it falls apart or melts back into the environment.

It is important to respect both the setting and the natural materials used in the sculpture. While using or borrowing the natural materials needed to create a sculpture, you do no harm to the environment and you allow for the sculpture to disintegrate or for natural processes such as tides and wind to return the environment to its natural state.

But environmental art can also address ecological issues by pointing out abuse of our environment- like "7000 oaks" by Joseph Beuys.

## Examples in the Park

Examples of semi-permanent environmental sculpture can be found in the Park. These include *Aspiring* and *Hawk eye* by Ian Boyle .

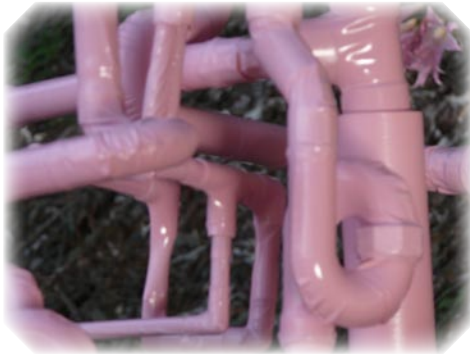


For most exhibitions, artists come up with innovative projects in this genre. Some of these will only last the duration of a few months

In E:SCAPE 2011 Lee Harrop's work *Critical Turbidity* was made of "liquid" grass seed sprayed on a cliff face in the shape of Australia.



*Numinous reticulation* by Charlotte Parallel did address our short-term thinking when it comes to the disposal of rubbish.



But for all of us,  
environmental art can be a low impact art form  
with easily accessible resources.  
Have a look at an example made by our artist Finlay.



### More resources on environmental art

A number of well-known artists undertake environmental art work as part of their practice. You might find reference to their websites useful.

[www.goldsworthy.cc.gla.ac.uk](http://www.goldsworthy.cc.gla.ac.uk)

<http://www.andrewrogers.org/>

<http://www.fmmagazine.com.au/features/how-art-is-changing-green-building/>

Different aspects in Environmental Art:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental\\_art](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_art)

7000 Oaks:([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7000\\_Oaks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7000_Oaks) )



# Methods of sculpture making: Assembled/ constructed Sculpture

## What is it?

A constructed sculpture can be made from different materials and found or created parts. Artists sometimes mix materials. Especially when working with found materials, the aim is to create an art work that gives the used objects a new identity. It is not always easy to join different materials permanently, as they might for example require different sorts of glue.



## Examples in the Park

Warren Viscoe's *Feral Overcoat* (on loan from James Wallace Trust Collection) is constructed from wood, partially carved.

Our *Artist's Shelter* was designed by James Pickernell and Matthew ter Borg and built by Lindsey Walker. It is constructed from metal and wood.

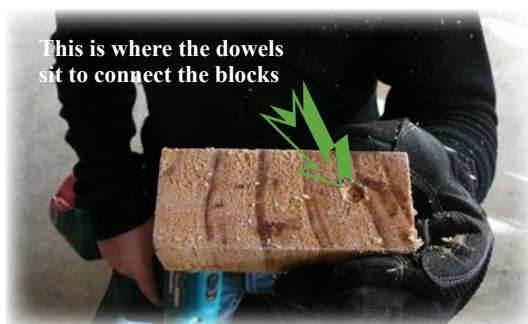




For E:SCAPE 2011 Stuart Bridson constructed the *Earth sculpture kit number 5* from found and partially altered materials



My own “Artists in Residence”, Finlay and Leander, did construct sculptures from wooden blocks, connected with wooden dowels.



Leander painted his Taniwha sculpture in bright colours



### More resources on constructed sculpture

On Don Driver, a New Zealand artist that works with assemblage:

<http://www.art-newzealand.com/Issues11to20/driver.htm>

Joseph Cornell, a surreal American artist: [http://edu.warhol.org/app\\_cornell.html](http://edu.warhol.org/app_cornell.html)

# Methods of sculpture making: Carved Sculpture

## What is it?

A technique where material is removed to reveal a form. Depending on the material, which can be wood, stone, hardened plaster of paris, leather hard clay, bone or ivory, the artist will use different tools for the carving process. These can range from a fine chisel to a chainsaw.

## Examples in the Park

Mutsumi Matsuaoka's *Arc of light* is carved from marble, the same material that many artists used in the Renaissance in Italy (look at Michelangelo's work).



Will Whitmore carved his work *Patterns of light* in hinuera stone. Hinuera is sourced from New Zealand.



## More resources on carved sculpture

Michelangelo's pieta, carved in marble [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piet%C3%A0\\_\(Michelangelo\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piet%C3%A0_(Michelangelo))

Works and information on Isamu Noguchi [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isamu\\_Noguchi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isamu_Noguchi) and Constantin Brancusi <http://www.brancusi.com/index.html>





# Methods of sculpture making: Cast Sculpture

## What is it?

Casting means making a work of art by pouring a molten material (like metal, glass, plaster of paris, wax or any material that changes state when heated) into a hollow form (mould), where it hardens. After the hardening process this mould is removed and the artwork can be finished by polishing or maybe painting it.

If a flexible form (for example from rubber) has been used, this form can make a number of copies.

Metal sculptures are often created using the “lost wax” method (see detailed and well illustrated description at wikipedia, link below)

Another “lost form” casting method is sand casting- you can even try that on the beach:

- make a little dent in wet sand (or fill some sand in an ice cream container and use a spray bottle to dampen it)
- press a small object, maybe a shell, into the sand
- carefully remove the object
- fill the mould you just created with plaster of paris
- let harden and remove

## Examples in the Park



Lucy Bucknall's *Afternoon tea*, part of the Sculpture in the Park 2010 exhibition, is made of bronze.



So is the fantail bench seat by Chris Moore, a commissioned work that is permanently in the Park.

## More resources on cast sculpture

Please have a look at this detailed description of lost wax casting

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost-wax\\_casting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost-wax_casting)

<http://www.lucy-bucknall.co.nz/sculptures.html>

This video of the National Sculpture Society explains wonderful how casting from a lost wax form is done:

# Methods of sculpture making: Modelled Sculpture

## What is it?

A modelled sculpture is build up out of soft material like clay, plaster or paper machè , shaped by using hands or tools. This technique can easily used at home or at school, you can even use play dough to make a non-permanent sculpture. Depending on the size of the work artists might work in separate pieces and assemble the art work after it has hardened.

## Examples in the Park

Jan White's *Head and Shoulders*, which you will find in the Rock Garden, is a beautiful example for a modelled sculpture from terracotta.



## Idea for a visit to the Park

Bring along a sheet of aluminium foil, select a sculpture and copy it by molding the aluminium into shape.

## More resources on modelled sculpture

One big scale work in clay that you probably heard of is the terracotta warrior army of Qin Shi Huang ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terracotta\\_Army](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terracotta_Army) ).

A modern artist that modelled sculptures was Niki de St Phalle.

She started working in paper machè over an “armature”( a support for modelled sculpture, often made from wire) and later, as her work got bigger, in Polyester.

Please have a look at

<http://queencalifia.org/garden.html#> ,

<http://www.oneroom.org/sculptors/desaintphalle.html>

to admire her work.

# Methods of sculpture making: Glass Sculpture

## What is it?

Glass can be worked into sculptures in a variety of ways. It can occur naturally when rock high in silicate is heated to a high temperature. This way obsidian (or volcanic glass) is formed, it can be found in New Zealand. The glass that we use for windows, bottles, glasses and artwork is produced from silicon dioxide (sand), sodium carbonate (soda) and calcium carbonate (limestone)

## The most common methods to turn glass into a piece of art are:

**Fusing:** The heating of glass pieces in a kiln to a specified temperature to enable their surfaces to bond to each other. Temperatures range from 710 - 800°C

**Glass blowing:** The gathering of molten glass on the end of a blow pipe which is then formed, inflated and manipulated into desired forms. Temperatures range from 1000°C - 1150°C

**Lost wax casting:** A technique adapted from bronze casting where the object to be made from glass is first formed in wax. This wax is encased in a plaster mix and steamed out leaving a void. Chunks of glass are placed into this void and then fired in a kiln in which the chunks of glass melt. Temperatures range from 780°C - 880°C

**Slumping:** A kiln process that usually involves flat glass being subjected to heat in a kiln. As the glass heats up gravity changes its shape. Temperatures range from 620°C - 720°C

**Cold working:** The glass is worked in its cold state with the aid of abrasives such as silicon carbide and diamond. It may be carved using diamond blades mounted on angle grinders. The surface needs to be refined until a polish is achieved. This may take many months of intensive labour.

**Pâté de verre:** Fusing small pieces of glass inside a mould

## Examples in the Park

Look out for our exhibition RE:FRACTION , October to November in the Rock Garden area.

## More resources on glass sculpture

Have a look at the tutorials of the Corning Museum of Glass

<http://www.youtube.com/user/corningmuseumofglass>

You will find an amazing overview on New Zealand glass artists on this website

[http://www.nzsag.co.nz/Artists\\_A-Z.html](http://www.nzsag.co.nz/Artists_A-Z.html)

And please look at the amazing glass art of Tom Moore

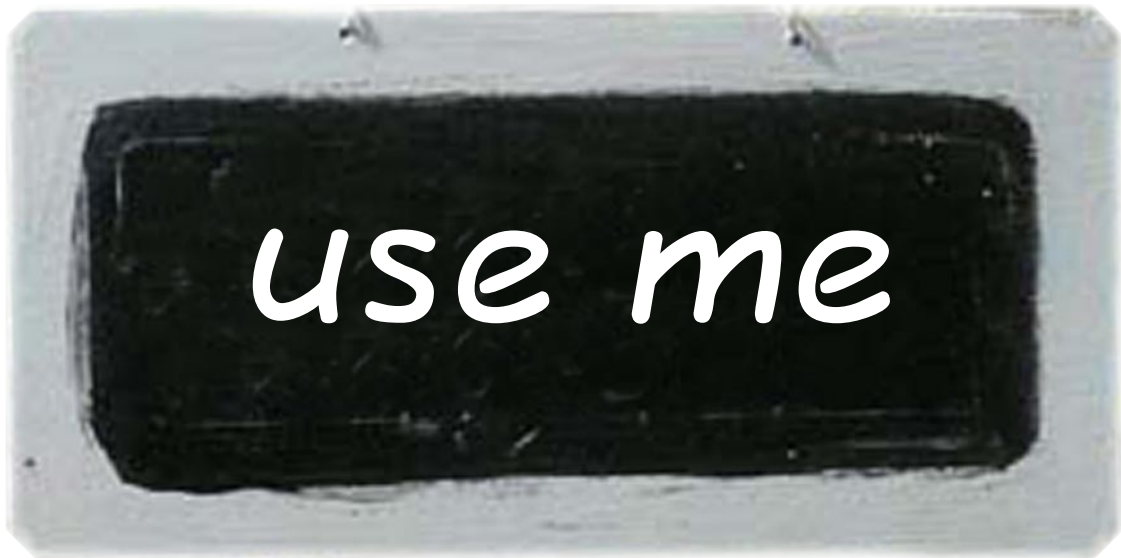
[http://basement.craftaustralia.org.au/forum/2006/bio/Tom\\_Moore.php](http://basement.craftaustralia.org.au/forum/2006/bio/Tom_Moore.php)



## Activities to do in the Park

These activities give you the opportunity to interact with the art and the Park. This interaction provides for understanding and engagement with the artwork.

Projects like the interactive blackboards do not only encourage questioning and exploring the meaning of the artwork; they also provide a tool to do so.



Oscar and Henri making use of the blackboard

# Activities to do in the Park: The interactive blackboards

When exploring the park, you might not only marvel about the sculpture- their material, the technique that was used, the meaning, the message, and the position-but also about the name.

How would you name it?

Being an explorer of the Sculpture Park, discovering art in unexpected places- how could you name your discoveries?

What does it remind you of?

Who would you dedicate it to?

**Observe! Be Bold! Rename!**

Throughout the park you will find poles with “interactive blackboards”.

**Make use of them!**

Contemplate on the artwork and make your suggestion on how you would name it.



Read how other visitors experienced the work.



# Activities to do in the Park: Scavenger colour hunt to make a colour wheel (an activity that needs a digital camera)

Go on a photo colour hunt and make your own colour wheel

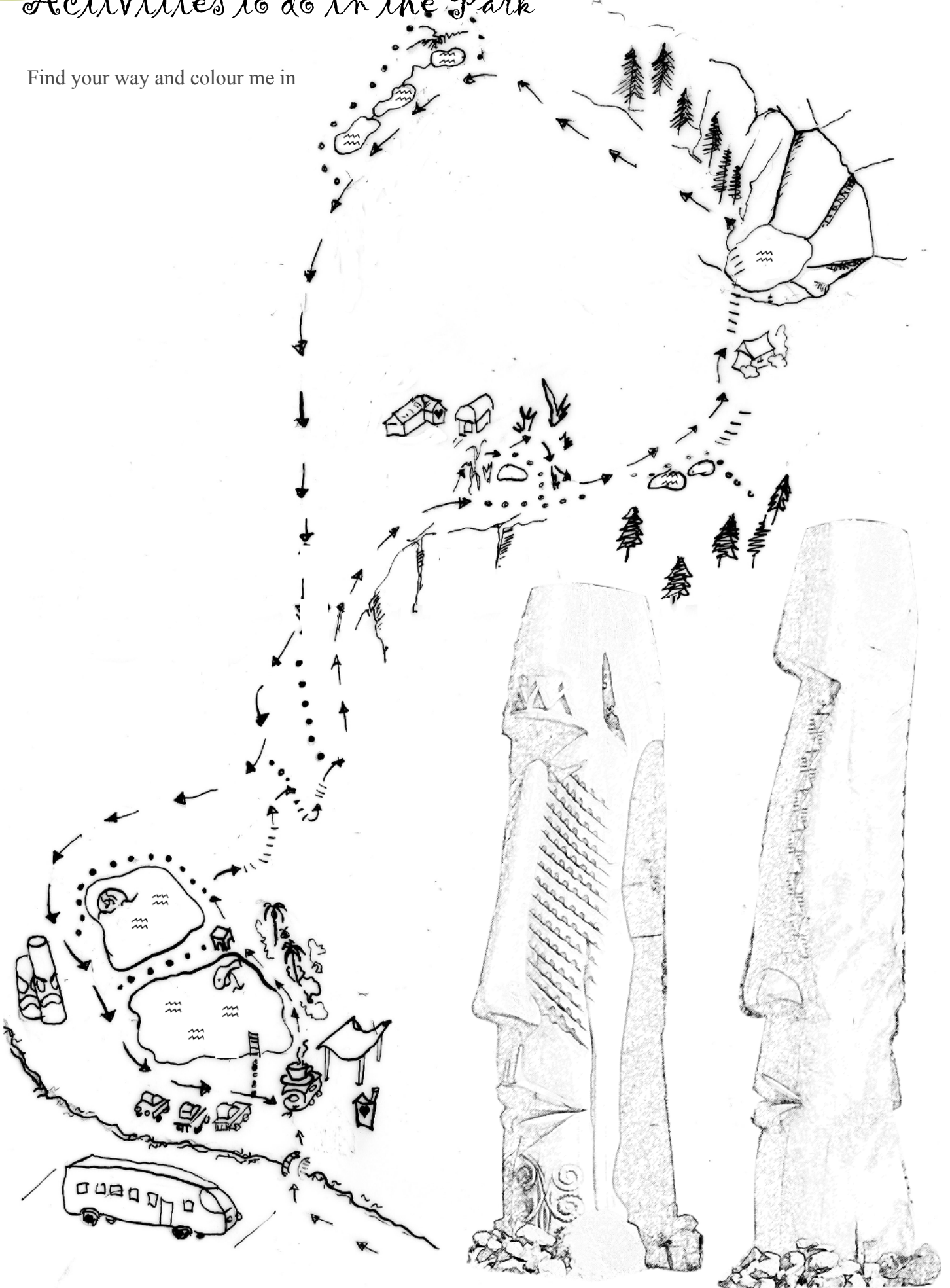
- Look around for similar colours as shown in the colour wheel.
- Leaves, flowers, sky- take a photo of whatever takes your fancy.
- If you like, make two colour wheels with natural and man-made materials.
- To keep track, print out this page and tick of the colours you already found





# Activities to do in the Park

Find your way and colour me in



# Activities to do in the Park: Nature scavenger hunt

Go out and collect:

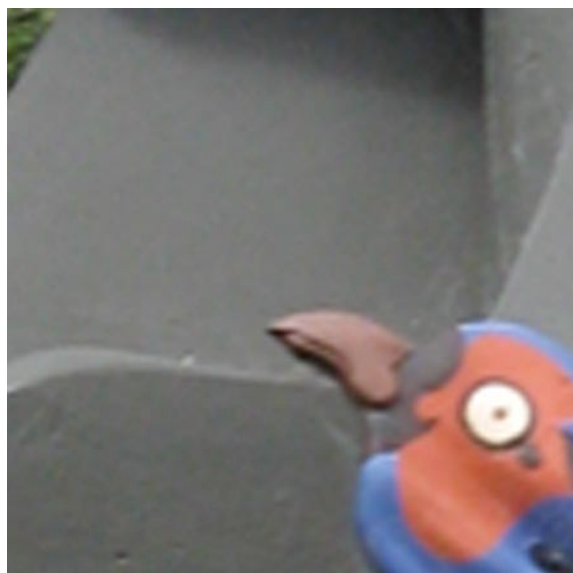
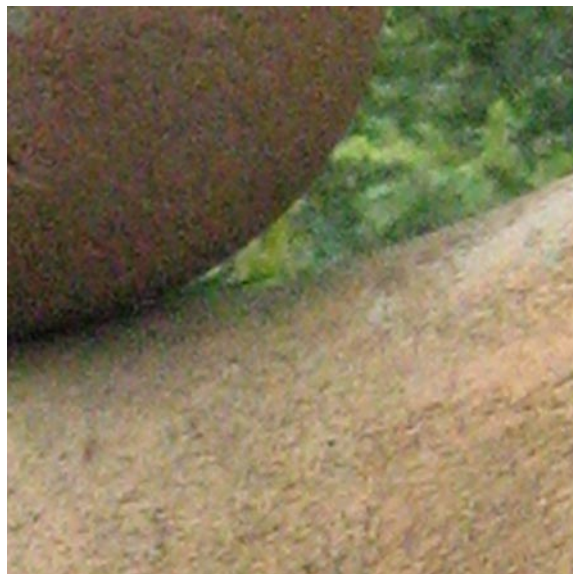
- 5 different shaped leaves
- leaves in 5 different colours
- 5 leaves from different trees in similar shapes.





# Activities to do in the Park: Art scaveng hunt

Look at these details closely and find the sculptures they belong to on your walk through the Park



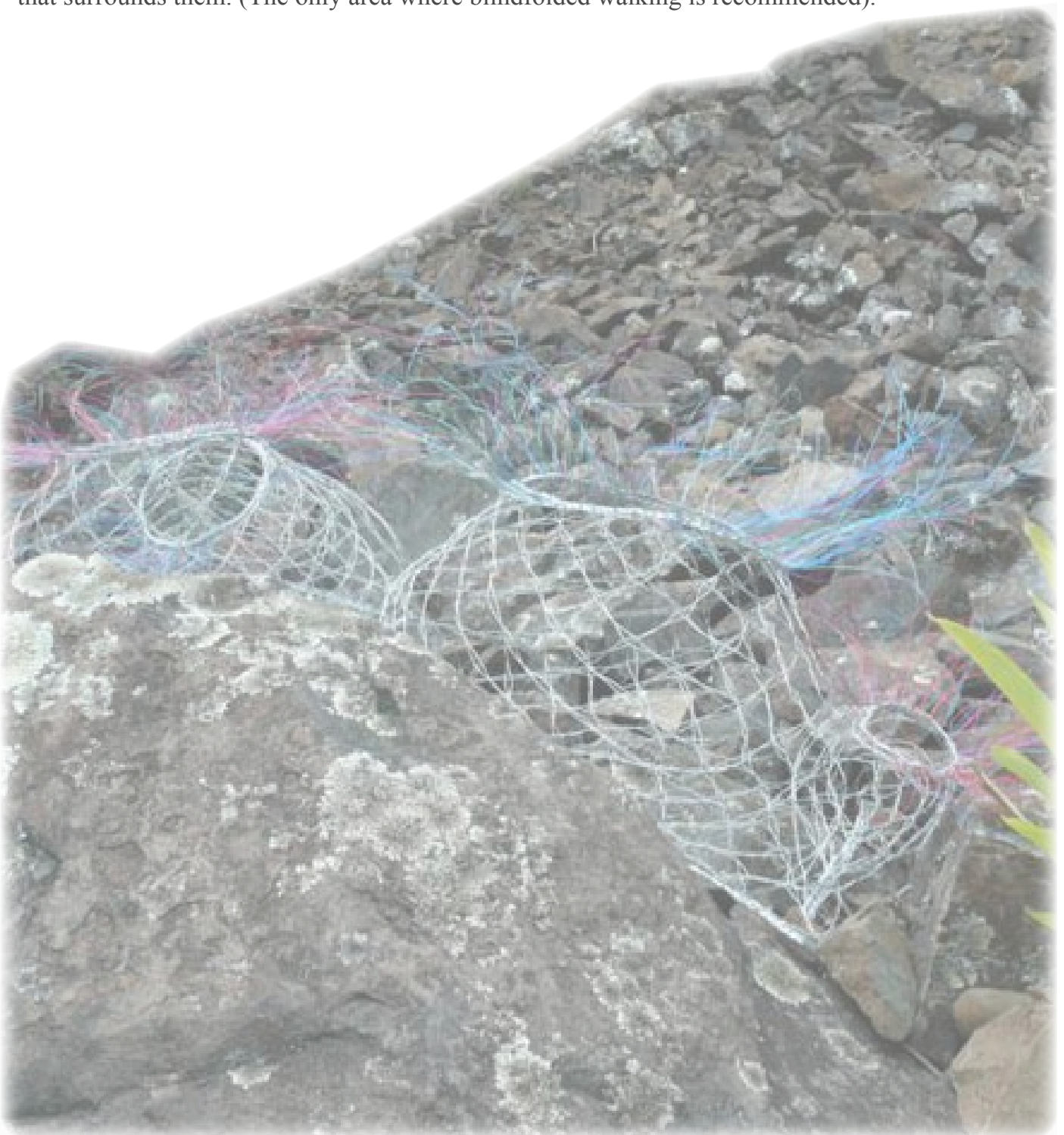


## Activities to do in the Park: Blindfolded explorations of sound

The quarry pond is full of sounds. If you sit blindfolded on the ground/ bench for a few minutes, you will be amazed what you can hear.

Describe the sounds and try to find out what makes them. Please stay seated while you do so; remember there is water around.

A matter of trust: in the conifer canyon you can lead a blindfolded friend through the sound that surrounds them. (The only area where blindfolded walking is recommended).



# Activities to do in the Park: Descriptive words

Please feel free to cut out and eventually laminate these descriptive word-cards as a tool to encourage your children describe how they feel about a piece of art.

hard	soft
polished	fluffy
gritty	warm
cold	smooth
coarse	metallic
spiky	sharp
glassy	fine
matte	funny
sad	round
square	solid
streamlined	swollen

frail	active
passive	affectionate
confused	happy
busy	gloomy
clever	exciting
mean	friendly
mysterious	angry


Can you think of your own words to describe what you see?



## Dear visitors

We hope you enjoyed your visit to the Park.

We have a range of tutorials and curriculum based programmes; please request the complete list from the arts educator:

[artseducator@sculpturepark.co.nz](mailto:artseducator@sculpturepark.co.nz)

### Tutorials

- Tutorial on ice sculpture I (ice casting and fusing/ ice cubes)
- Tutorial on ice sculpture II (ice casting and fusing/ make an ice lei to adorn trees)
- Tutorial on ice sculpture III (“carved” ice with water)
- Tutorial on ice sculpture IV (pâté de verre)

### Curriculum based programmes:

- Exploring the environment of the world - How much do you know about the environment in different countries? (Suggested curriculum levels: 1,2 and3)
- Exploring carved Sculpture - How can you make a piece of art just by taking material away? (Suggested curriculum levels: 2-3)
- Exploring Sculptures of the World - Look at the difference and similarities in art around the world (Suggested curriculum levels: 2-3)

If you have requests,or feedback (or are interested in the opportunity to become a voluntary docent for our exhibitions) please contact us:

[info@sculpturepark.co.nz](mailto:info@sculpturepark.co.nz)

or

[artseducator@sculpturepark.co.nz](mailto:artseducator@sculpturepark.co.nz)

On weekends we often have volunteer guides who can provide you with more information.



**THE SCULPTURE  
PARK @ WAITAKARURU  
ARBORETUM**

**THE ART  
PLACE  
TO BE**