



**Sculpture Cymru**  
at / yn

**Strata Florida / Ystrad Fflur**

8-10 June / Mehefin 2012

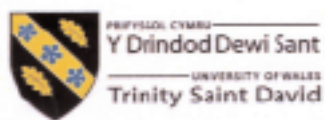
Cover: A survey map of the Abbey Farm, Strata Florida, 1765

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SCULPTURE  
cymru  
SCULPTURE IN WALES

[www.sculpturecymru.org.uk](http://www.sculpturecymru.org.uk)

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## Sculpture Cymru at Strata Florida

Sculpture Cymru, a group of 30 sculptors living in Wales, has joined together with the Strata Florida Project to collaborate and to start a dialogue of ideas and exploration of possibilities to engage with the environment, in its widest description, of Strata Florida.

The site of Strata Florida has long been a place for gathering and has a long history of agriculture and mining as well as political dialogue and development. Within this, a wide range of industries and artistic work have been practiced, from paper making, pottery, leatherwork, illumination to metal working. The skills and techniques used then are often still in use today and the sculptors will be continuing a tradition of working with similar materials, yet responding to them and the environment with a wide range of differing interpretations and reactions.

The aim in 2012 is to test out ideas around the reputation and meaning of Strata Florida within the landscape. The Strata Florida Project and Sculpture Cymru will work together to develop a meaningful relationship; sharing skills, ideas, interpretations and feeding into a wider understanding of ways of responding to this environment and how to collaborate with the communities engaging with Strata Florida.

## Sculpture Cymru yn Ystrad Fflur

Mae Sculpture Cymru, grŵp o 30 o gerflunwyr sy'n byw yng Nghymru, wedi ymuno â Chynllun Ystrad Fflur er mwyn cydweithio a thrafod syniadau a gwneud archwiliad o'r posibiladau o weithio'n agos gydag amgylchfyd Ystrad Fflur, yn ei ddisgrifiad mwyaf eang.

Mae safle Ystrad Fflur wedi bod yn fan cyfarfod ers amser maith ac mae iddo hanes eang o amaethyddiaeth a mwyngloddio yn ogystal â deialog a datblygiad gwleidyddiaeth. O fewn hyn, cafwyd ystod eang o ddiwydiannau a gweithiau artistig o wneuthur papur, crochenwaith, gwaith lledr a goliwiad i fetalwaith. Defnyddir y sgiliau a'r technegau hyn yn aml iawn heddiw a bydd y cerflunwyr yn parhau gyda'r traddodiad yma o weithio gyda deunyddiau tebyg, gan ymateb iddynt a'r amgylchfyd gydag ystod eang o esboniadau ac adweithiau gwahaniaethol.

Y nod yn 2012 yw i arbrofi syniadau o gwmpas enw da ac ystyr Ystrad Fflur o fewn y tirlun. Bydd Cynllun Ystrad Fflur a Sculpture Cymru'n cydweithio i ddatblygu perthynas ystyrllon; rhannu sgiliau, syniadau, dehongliadau a bwydo'i mewn i ddealltwriaeth ehangach o ffyrdd o adweithio yn yr amgylchfyd yma a sut i gydweithio gyda chymunedau o fewn Ystrad Fflur.



## MINING EXPLORATION

Alison Lochhead

This is the beginning of a journey exploring the memories and physical realities about and around the mines in the Cambrian Mountains and hopefully beyond.

What lies under the ground and what gets revealed to us when we dig it up? How do we exploit, use and explore what the earth holds? I want to work with what the rocks 'give up' to us through the spoil heaps and the archaeological dig; what are the layers of stories? Through drawing as the dig is taking place, through talking with the archaeologists and the differing points of view which will emerge, through working with the rocks and spoil and by putting these back into the fire; in a kiln; to see what they will transform into; to explode, disintegrate, change into another form, join together, push apart, melt.

Working with the visual impact mines have on the landscape, the juxtaposition of raw material, construction, exploitation and change - this work will begin in Strata Florida.

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## ARMING

Antonia Spowers

Arming refers to forms based on Celtic arms, tools and artefacts in metal and *terrosa ferrata* - a form of plaster containing iron filings. The title *Arming* originated when the piece was first displayed hanging from natural wood forms resembling limbs. The work now hangs directly from tree branches. At the time of construction I was researching Celtic forms in museums and interested to find many large and splendid pieces such as ceremonial shield were thrown into rivers as votive offerings. It appears that the hills in the area around Strata Florida were full of earlier settlements and as there was an iron foundry at the Abbey it is possible that some Celtic forms were adapted and re-designed.

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## BERLLAN FACH - LITTLE ORCHARD

John Howes

The Cistercian Order sought out remote valleys as places in which to establish their activities. Working the land was a major undertaking for the monks. St Benedict decreed that gardening was, 'a worthy, virtuous and godly occupation.'

My artistic practice is based upon creating pieces in response to the materials, history and significance associated with particular sites within the landscape.

The estate map of the Abbey Farm of 1765 delineates areas of land that were used as Berllanau or Orchards. It is likely that the origin of the fruit trees of this date were those planted by the monks at Strata Florida in the 12th century.

*Berllan Fach - Little Orchard* pays homage to the importance of these orchards and to the vows and beliefs of the Cistercian Order -

*Stability - Fidelity - Obedience*

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## VISIONS OF THE CAILLEACH

Sue Roberts

My reaction to visiting Strata Florida is of holy wells and sacred springs. These have been in use since pre Christian times. In prehistory they were often places where rituals were performed. It is believed that people left offerings of figurines, or other objects made from wood, metal or clay in the water as a thank you, a request for healing or blessings. In later years these sites were often christianised and turned into the holy well of a saint. The holy well at Strata Florida is one such place. The religion had changed but the place remained a sacred site of healing and blessing.

My piece evokes the notion of an idea which has been buried in time, linking the exposing of an artefact with reconstructing its meaning.

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## ONLY TIME WILL CHANGE THEM

Robert Booth

In 1895 an iron water wheel started to turn in a blacksmith's workshop. Belts took the power for tools for the smith to use. Bellows breathed into the forge allowing the metal to submit to the tilt hammers shaping. Anvils rang out to the sound of the creative hammer blows, sparks of genius flew off.

*The monks' iron working at Strata Florida also had a similar chorus of hammer blows.*

One hundred years later I shaped the stainless steel piece. The juxtaposition of objects which trigger our thoughts of ageing and temporal moments is something I would like to continue at Strata Florida.

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## BREAD OF HEAVEN

Lyndon Mably

This artwork stems from the importance of bread in The Bible and subsequently in the medieval diet of the Monks at Strata Florida.

References to bread in The Bible are numerous. Indeed bread and food are used interchangeably throughout.

I have baked Organic sourdough loaves, which contain bible verses referring to bread, and I will be placing the loaves in the river to flow downstream allowing the "Bread of Heaven" to spread the word of God both physically and metaphorically.

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Ezekial Book 4 verse 9 has a recipe for Bread.

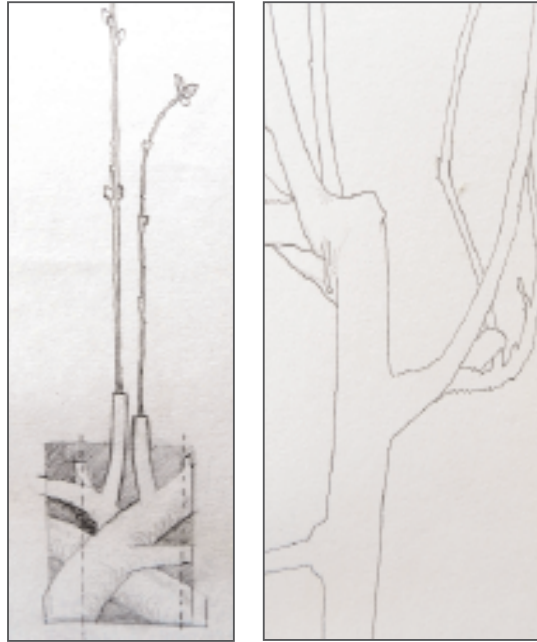
*Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentils, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel, and make thee bread thereof.*

## KNOTWORK

### Joolz Cave-Berry

My work relates to the growth and development of the surrounding area as well as its people, sourcing imagery from the book of Kells and mediaeval illuminations, which in turn were a reflection of their lives, nature and harmony. Knotwork intertwines like pagan and Christian beliefs to create a new form, a new way of thinking - a belief, and was woven into the fabric of their lives and lands as a visual means of communication that was accessible to all.

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## POLLEN STRUCTURES

### Dilys Jackson

These works are inspired by the complex network structures that may be seen on some pollens. They represent the rich pasture lands that gave the valley its name and that were farmed by the Cistercian monks of Strata Florida.

They are both mould-carved.

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## FLOCK

### Glenn Morris

Flock is a term that is applied to a group of people and also to describe congregations in the religious sense or followers of Jesus, who himself, often referred to people as 'my flock'. Behaving like sheep, however, is sometimes used in a derogatory sense suggesting that people cannot think for themselves. Society now, if we are to believe the scientific evidence, is on an extremely dangerous trajectory and change for the better will only be possible if the majority of people decide that the existing system does not work; such change does require that people think for themselves and understand that a system based on profit at the expense of people and the environment can only fail.

## THE PILGRIM

### Glenn Morris

The pilgrim travels on foot from afar to a holy place, often in the belief that he will leave behind a spiritual state of wretchedness and enter a state of beatitude. All of us are pilgrims in a sense, moving through our lives, looking for something. Often in our desire to 'move on' we miss the present only to find that we will never get the chance to experience it again.

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## SCULPTURE CYMRU

### Recent Projects - Prosiectau Diweddar

#### HIRAETH

Germany / London Touring exhibition  
Arddangosfa deithiol  
Yr Almaen - Llundain

#### RESIDENTIAL IRON POUR

Carmarthen - Caerfyrddin

#### SCULPTUREWORKS

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Margam  
International Site works  
Gwaith Safle Rhyngwladol

#### CROSSING OVER

Ireland / Wales exhibition  
Arddangosfa Iwerddon / Cymru

#### ARC INTERNACIONAL D' ESCULTURA

Brittany / Catalunya / Wales exhibition  
Arddangosfa Llydaw / Catalunya / Cymru

#### IRONSTONE

International exhibition of Contemporary  
Cast Iron Art  
Arddangosfa rhyngwladol o Gerflunian  
Haearn Bwrw  
Kidwelly Castle Wales

**Sculpture Cymru** is an organisation of sculptors living and working in Wales. The organisation creates opportunities for sculptors to come together to make work, exhibit and exchange ideas.

Sculpture Cymru members organise exhibitions, residencies, workshops and seminars. Members also work with sculptors and groups from other countries; recent collaborations have involved artists from Brittany, Ireland, Catalunya, Argentina and the USA.

Sculpture Cymru also offers advice and management for sculptural projects and welcomes applications from sculptors interested in joining the group.

Grŵp o gerflunwyr yw **Sculpture Cymru** sy'n byw ac yn gweithio yng Nghymru. Mae'r gymdeithas yn creu cyfloedd i gerflunwyr i dodd at ei gilydd i wneud gwaith, i arddangos ac i gyfnewid syniadau.

Mae aelodau Sculpture Cymru yn trefnu arddangosfeydd, cyfnodau preswyl, gweithai a seminarau. Mae'r aelodau hefyd yn gweithio gyda cherflunwyr a grŵpiau o wledydd eraill; bu artistiaid o Llydaw, Iwerddon, Catalunya, Yr Ariannin, a'r Unol Daleithiau yn cydweithio a'r grŵp yn ddiweddar,

Mae Sculpture Cymru hefyd yn cynnig cyngor a rheolaeth ar gyfer prosiectau cerflunio ac mae'n croesawu ceisiadu gan gerflunwyr sydd a diddordeb mewn a'r gŵrp.



**SCULPTURE**  
**cymru**  
SCULPTORS IN WALES

A SURVEY  
 of the Abbey Farm  
 the Parish of Carron  
 in the County of  
 ANTIQUAN  
 Taken & Delinrated  
 1775



Key in & South of Course Occupied  
 1775

