

Final Frontier:

A public art project inspired by
Gateshead Riverside Park
Commissioned by Gateshead Council
17:05:2009


PROJECT KEY

 **Jo Ray:**
Stand by

Dimensions: 9m high
Materials: Decommissioned telegraph pole, ribbon, iron and steel

 **rednile:**
HiViS

Dimensions: 22m x 1.5m
Materials: High visibility jackets, fibreglass, cable ties.

 **Sarah Bayliss:**
Voicepipes

Dimensions: 200m x 28mm in total
Materials: Copper piping

 **Sophie Lisa Beresford:**
Super Fantastic Tipi

Dimensions: 5.5m x 5.5m
Materials: Canvas, ash, willow

 **David Thomas:**
From This World Or The Next

Dimensions: 150cm x 150cm x 150cm
Materials: Expanded Polystyrene, Resin, Fiberglass, Steel & Paint.

PARTICIPANTS FEEDBACK

'Had a great day, should do it every year'

'I will visit this area more often, we thoroughly enjoyed today. Rednile have done a superb job!'

'Really enjoyed today and didn't realise how much artwork was on my door step'

'Good to see area being used and was made to feel very welcome'

'Will definitely use this walk again'

'We were amazed at how vocal the children were about their area and how many ideas they had'

'Creativity wise – these activities really helped the children's' concentration and their cooperation and skills in working with other people'

'The Tugboat making was great as children who wouldn't normally participate did and did so for the whole session'



Final Frontier:

A public art project inspired by Gateshead Riverside Park
Commissioned by Gateshead Council

Foreword

Rednile’s approach to create the concept of Final Frontier involved research into the Riverside Park, its users and the surrounding communities of Teams and Dunston. The Riverside Park is a vast area with many inspiring and unique features to consider including natural habitat, topography, architecture, travel corridors and history. Our exploration of the park formed the idea of it being one of the last green spaces along this stretch of the Tyne and as the surrounding area becomes developed, the Park feels like the ‘final frontier’ between the natural and the man made environment. As artists we wanted to create work that highlighted the parks unique characteristics and create a project where people would explore and enjoy this relatively untouched space. As curators, we wanted to involve a range of artists so that their artistic responses would capture the diverse nature of the park. These responses provided important ideas for future visual developments such as performance spaces, sculpture and other permanent features.

Final Frontier was based at Teams Community Centre which acted as a hub point and provided workspace for the artists. This was important in order to link the project to the community as the artists delivered creative sessions to local groups. Whilst the artists drew on inspiration from the park to deliver sessions, they also research and developed pieces of artwork to be showcased at the Final Frontier event.

We felt the Final Frontier event was crucial in order to demonstrate to the wider public the park’s potential and look to its future development. We aimed to create a dynamic event that brought together a range of art works that performed on different levels along with a programme of activities that communicated how the park could be utilized for recreation. The park was transformed for a day as hundreds of people from different backgrounds experienced the park in a new light, discussed and enjoyed the art works and took part in activities that ranged from bike rides, nature trails to heritage walks. The visitor feedback concluded that the event was highly successful and did change people’s perceptions of the park and what it could be used for, paving the way for future improvements of this unique green space.

www.rednile.org

Jo Ray:
Stand by



Stand by:
To wait in a state of readiness to act if required

The riverside park is an ‘in between’ place, containing layers of both play and utility. Standing at the convergence of paths, ‘Stand by’ combines these elements. It embodies an idealised past, means of communication that may or may not function, and suggests a longing for common social spaces and acts that are hard to find. Both celebratory and melancholy, the work acknowledges contrasting aspects of the park’s identity and people’s relationship to it.

Jo Ray is an artist based in Gateshead. She trained at the Slade School of Art, and has exhibited in the UK and Europe.

Sarah Bayliss:
Voicepipes



The artwork ‘Voicepipes’ evolved from research into wartime methods of communication, culminating in snaking copper pipes through the park. As the copper instinctively works itself around the park, through impassable terrain, twisting and turning through the trees and over the landscape, the viewer is invited to explore and envisage the space afresh. ‘Voicepipes’ act as a visual illustration of sound traversing through space, they echo the tunnelling of the coalmines and the unique industrial heritage of this landscape.

Sarah Bayliss is a multi disciplinary artist practicing in the North East and has shown work across North England since graduating in 2007 from Newcastle University.

David Thomas:
From This World Or The Next



A geometric Structure 1.5m3 finished in a highly polished gloss surface. David Thomas’s piece references the contrasts in organic and highly engineered elements seen from the riverside park. Whilst the park area itself is a predominantly overgrown natural landscape it is intersected by large structural elements such as the bridge undercarriages that pass overhead.

David Thomas currently lives and works in Birmingham UK and has exhibited extensively across the UK and Europe and throughout the USA, Japan and China.

Gateshead Council

Gateshead Riverside Park, the wooded area on the South Bank of the River Tyne has a number of identities - to some people it is home to major Public Art works such as ‘Rolling Moon’ by Colin Rose, to others it’s a cycle way or Centrelink bus route and to some it’s the way home to the Staiths South bank. It has had many incarnations but now is a valuable community resource – a major green space in the heart of a built-up area.

Gateshead Council’s new Riverside Park Strategy established an aspiration to improve and enhance the Riverside Park. As part of this process rednile Projects were commissioned to create an arts project which would raise the park’s profile and make it a place that local people and visitors to the area would want to explore, and to positively engage with the local community in order to see their surroundings in a new light and explore the park’s potential for the future.

The engagement of rednile brought us all into direct contact with a number of community groups and associations as well as a diverse group of contemporary artists that worked on the project. The culmination of a series of three month artist residencies was a one-day Public Art celebration - ‘Final Frontier’- that presented a trail of temporary artworks and other activities such as cycling, walking and heritage talks, in Riverside Park on Sunday May 17th 2009.

This kind of project invariably involves a number of unseen challenges and issues that can only be solved through sensitive negotiation. During this project positive and effective communication was maintained throughout and we were impressed with rednile’s commitment to deliver what Gateshead Council sought to realise which was – as the initial brief stated – “Impact, quality and beauty”.

We hope that we can continue to build on this good work and bring new projects and artworks into the park in subsequent years.

Thank You

Rednile and the artists would like to thank everyone involved in realising the Final Frontier project including:

Tracy Johnson, Dawn McArdle, Alice, Tammy and staff at Teams Community Centre

Helen Ross and Lynda Henderson at Teams Children’s Centre

Carol Nixon, Kathy Watson and staff and Dunston Drop in Centre

Emma Robson, Natasha Kippen, Laura Wood, Bronwyn G, Katie D, Zoe H, Amy C, Carli C and young people at Teams Community Centre

Stacey Bell, Alex Gallimore, Jack Moore, Connor Lawson, Dean Farey, Liam Fox, Emma Jobes, Amy Hepple, Ashley Clarkson, Sophie Clarkson, Danielle Gullen, Ashley Carver, Laura Cann, Nicola Bell, Jo Robson, Lewis Mansfield, Yasmin Dagliesh, Kirsty Walton at Dunston Drop In Centre

GC RPS Group and the Public Art Team, Design services, Countryside Team, Arts Team, LES, Andy Hawkins and Stevie for their help and interest in the project

Max Graham, Gail Freeman, Simon Tennant (accordionist), Carl Rosati, Tyne United Rowing Club, Laura McFarlane, Edmund Francis, Gemma Bayliss, Geoffrey Stevens, Rob Treehouse, Gwen Keating (green badge guide), Cultural Volunteers, Heritage Centre, The Sage Gateshead and The Baltic.

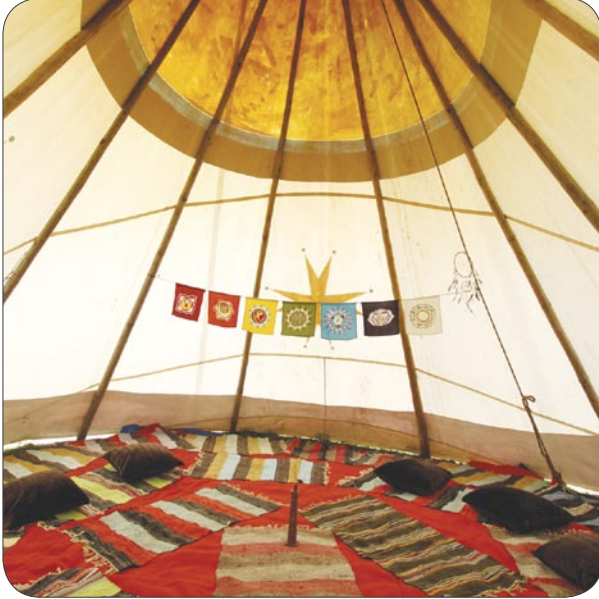
rednile Projects:
HiViS



Rednile were drawn to the unique structures and architecture within the park and wanted to transform one of these into something unrecognisable. HiViS aimed to make an impact on this vast green space by using colour on a large scale- wrapping a 70ft long gas pipe underneath the King Edward Railway Bridge with high visibility jackets. During the event, security staff became part of the artwork, as their hi-vis jackets were spotted throughout the park. The jackets were embossed with the Final Frontier logo and were given out to participants of the project.

rednile is creatively directed by 3 artists, Suzanne Hutton, Michael Branthwaite and Janine Goldsworthy. Rednile initiate collaborative projects with artists and other creatives and work site specifically in temporary venues and businesses.

Sophie Lisa Beresford:
Super Fantastic Tipi



This piece was interactive and open to all members of the public. The idea of the Super Fantastic Tipi is to bring new and positive experiences and knowledge to the people in the park and to bring health to the park itself. Activities within the Tipi were based around positivity and healing. These activities were; Crystal Healing, Crystal Charging, Offerings and Smudging (Native American practice of using sacred herbs to cleanse the Aura).

Sophie Lisa Beresford was born in Sunderland and is a recent graduate of its University. Her work and performances have been shown in Sunderland, Gateshead (workplace gallery) and Newcastle (Laing art gallery).



“...As the surrounding area becomes developed, the Park feels like the ‘final frontier’ between the natural and the man made environment.

As artists we wanted to create work that highlighted the parks unique characteristics and create a project where people would explore and enjoy this relatively untouched space.

As curators, we wanted to involve a range of artists so that their artistic responses would capture the diverse nature of the park...”

