



## Artist Biography

We are collaborative artists, Kim Neith Thompson and Rob Neith Nicholson, who like to highlight social and environmental issues with our work. We are comfortable with various media and disciplines including photography, written word, printing, clay, wool and sculpture. We work predominantly with wood, for our sculptural work, and only use UK grown, sustainably sourced timber that is classified as durable for outside use. Scientific evidence shows that the heartwood from English Oak can last for 26+ years in an outside environment with no maintenance, Western Red Cedar 15 years plus.

We design our Public Work to be naturally strong and durable without potential weak points. Our 15 years experience has given us an in-depth knowledge of the material and how it works best. From grain orientation to the differential in longevity between the sapwood and hardwood, we use all this learned information in each piece and take into account site specific constraints or restrictions for each project. We have working technical knowledge around fixing and securing of our work.

We are very adaptable, can problem solve to a high degree and excel when we have a steep learning curve to manage. Our all round abilities and breadth of knowledge across a wide range of topics means we can cope with all aspects of projects both big and small, encompassing extensive subject matter.

We are experienced at devising and providing community engagement. Often incorporating the outcomes into a finished design to improve community acceptance and ownership of the piece. We like our Public realm work to have a sense of place either through highlighting some local, social or environmental issue or through having a strong link to the human or natural history of an area.

Our environmental credentials matter a great deal to us. We live an off grid lifestyle, our only electricity coming from solar, our heating is via the offcuts from our work. We reuse, recycle and repurpose. We live on, and help manage, a regenerative farm that has re-wilded areas and tries to produce food while increasing biodiversity. We don't use air travel.

Our Art is predominately created from timber that would be considered waste or biomass. We use battery tools, or hand tools, wherever possible. Any fuel we do use is designed to be more environmentally friendly (Aspen). Any lubricants we use are fully biodegradable (mainly vegetable oil).

We use timber treatments that are biocide free and safe for humans, animals and plants.

We were born and reside in the UK and have a right to work here.

Our client list includes: Barratt Homes, Stonewater LTD, Royalty, National Trust, NHS, English Heritage, National Parks and the BBC

We hold insurance : Public Liability £10 million, Product Liability £10 million and Professional Indemnity £5 million with Hiscox.

Despite being a small Partnership we have both an Anti Slavery and an Anti Bribery Policy.

We have enhanced DBS checks

## Curriculum Vitae

Neith Art & Sculpture: Collaborative Artists  
Kim Neith Thompson, Rob Neith Nicholson  
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*"Horseplay", Newmarket, Discover Newmarket, Newmarket Town Council & Love Newmarket BID, March – July 2025  
Project Budget £15,000*

Commissioned by Discover Newmarket in partnership with Newmarket Town Council and Love Newmarket BID to design and create a public art trail across the town centre. The brief was to produce site-responsive sculpture based on the theme of "Horseplay" and reflecting Newmarket's identity. Our proposal combined using the ideas of chess and heraldic symbolism, carved into eight sustainably sourced UK-grown timber chess pieces. We devised a coherent concept of heraldic symbols, with an accessible modern slant, based on the different aspects of Newmarket's racing culture. We wanted 3 of the pieces to have designs that were derived from the community. We led a programme of public engagement with over 100 people, including school and community workshops, resulting in the co-design of three Pawn sculptures. Participants developed their own symbolic motifs, which were adapted and integrated into the final carvings. Each sculpture included an 18-character title or motto, drawing on the traditions of racehorse naming and was accompanied by interpretive content accessed via QR code. The sculptures were placed throughout central Newmarket as part of the town's Summer of Play 2025 programme, creating a family-friendly walking trail that encouraged close looking and reflection. The project was well received by partners and visitors, with positive feedback on its craftsmanship, accessibility, and originality. Delivered on time and within budget.

*"Reclaim", Earl's Park, Chesterfield, Avant Homes, November 2024 – April 2025  
Project Budget £8000*

Commissioned by Avant Homes and Junction Arts to create a site-specific public artwork for a new housing development built on a former colliery. Our proposal to the call out was to explore the relationship between natural regeneration and the area's industrial past. We led creative sessions with children from local schools to explore the themes of landscape, coal, and renewal, resulting in expressive clay reliefs and collages. These directly informed the final sculpture — a large carved sequoia form that referenced a "pit stack" when viewed from the side and resolved into a tree when viewed from above. The piece was installed at a key gateway into the development and has been praised for its strong symbolism and integration of community creativity. The piece was also functional as a bench, furthering its acceptance by the local community. The project was delivered on time and on budget.

*Wilbur Close, Nottingham, Stonewater LTD, Sept 2022 - August 2024  
Project Budget £17500*

As part of a joint property development with Avant, Stonewater Ltd commissioned us to research, develop and create a functional piece of Public Art inspired by the area's Framework Knitting heritage. As part of this we devised and delivered a series of creative workshops with a local school. Through our own research, including engaging with the local Framework Knitting Museum, and taking inspiration from the workshops, we found real resonance in the abject poverty that the Knitters had to toil through. We asked the participants of the workshops to use their empathy and place themselves in the shoes of a Knitter. They then used this to produce illustrated and sculptural work based on their thoughts. Part of our research unearthed the fact that all the Knitters ever owned was a simple plank of wood that they used as a seat at the machines. They took this with them from machine to machine and so, using rudimentary methods, shaped it to be theirs. Using this point we designed a series of benches based around the planks with a life-size Knitter sat at one of them. To further tell the story we constructed a poem that we engraved on the back of the seats. During the workshops the children made constant reference to Wilbur the cat, a famous inhabitant of the village, and so we also incorporated him into the design. The project was delivered on budget and on time.

*Bitham Park, Wiltshire, Barratt Homes, Sept 2021 - Dec 2023  
Project Budget £15000*

Barratt's needed a piece of Public Art created for their development. The brief was to create a site specific piece that would also be functional. Community engagement was also desired. We created a workshop with a local school that encouraged the pupils to think about how the local White Horse (a hillside sculpture placed at the site of a battle) could be used to inspire sculptural benches or seating. As the pupils were 11-13 years old our sessions were devised to encourage them to work like a professional artist. We gave them a brief and supported them working towards this. The nearby battle was between Vikings and Anglo Saxons and so we explored the art of these two cultures. The pupils researched, planned and designed their pieces before creating maquette of their designs. These maquettes were used as inspiration for our final piece which was a large bench in the shape of the Viking rune for horse with engraved battle scenes, in the two cultures styles, down the sides of the piece. The bench is due to be sited in a position that looks out towards the White Horse and in an orientation that places each differing style of art in the direction that army came to the skirmish from. We finished the project on-budget but massively overran due to the huge site problems that Barratt's encountered. The overrun was in no part due to us but does show that we can deal with adversity.

*Tatchbury Mount Hospital, Hampshire, NFPN/NHS, Dec 2020 - April 2022  
Project Budget £6500*

A large psychiatric Hospital that, in partnership with the New Forest National Park, wanted to engage its occupants and staff to produce a sculptural trail that helped improve patient outcomes by encouraging them to engage with their natural surroundings. We led a series of engagement sessions producing land art from found items around the site. This, along with some classroom based sessions with patients, informed the final pieces. This project was disrupted hugely by the advent of COVID but through flexibility, problem solving, creative thinking and collaborative working we delivered work that fit the brief and was in budget. We installed a trail of marker posts that had engravings responding to an aspect of nature that they were near. They had spy holes in them to direct the viewer to the nature specified. We also produced a bench, with varying heights and accessibility that was engraved with words and designs to encourage contemplation of the natural world.

*Naomi Close, Dorset, Stonewater LTD, October 2019 - August 2020  
Project Budget £15000*

An emotional project at a new property development . We were tasked with producing work inspired by, and in memorial to, a local lady who had sadly passed away through meningitis. We engaged with the family and produced a series of benches around the theme of the Lion King, being careful to not infringe copyright. The film was the sadly departed's favourite. There was a large element of press engagement involved and we updated the local press with our progress regularly. Unfortunately the end of the project was disrupted by COVID and so we didn't get traction from the press near the end. We did organise and partake in an interview for BBC Radio to publicise the work. An opening ceremony organised by Stonewater didn't go ahead due to the pandemic. The project was delivered on budget but ran over slightly due to lockdowns inhibiting installation.

*Sandridge Place, Wiltshire, Barratt Homes, April 2019 - September 2020  
Project Budget £7000*

We were commissioned to provide the Public Art for a new development. The pieces needed to have a sense of place and involve community engagement. Based on the history of the site, an old dairy, we produced 3 interactive pieces inspired by dairy farming. We engaged a local school and ran several creative workshops involving using materials found in the landscape to create mixed media work. The pupils work was inspired by their home and surroundings to mimic the brief that we had been given. We finished the project on time and on budget.

*Glamis Castle, Glamis, Scotland, February 2017 - July 2017*  
*Project Budget £25000*

This was a Royal commission at Glamis Castle, a site of national cultural importance and the ancestral home of the Queen Mother's family. The brief was to create a series of permanent artworks that would attract more visitors into the Castle Gardens and encourage movement through the Pinetum to the final siting. We delivered several large-scale, life-size figurative sculptures carved from local timber, each depicting scenes from Macbeth, a work of international significance with historic and literary connections to Glamis. The installation was designed to function as a sculptural trail, integrating narrative, landscape and movement through the site. The project involved extensive engagement with local and national press and was highly successful, contributing to a reported 50% increase in visitor numbers to the Castle Gardens. Alongside the installation, we delivered three workshops with local schools, supporting learning through creative engagement and embedding the project within its wider community context. The commission was completed on time and on budget. The opening ceremony was attended by national press and a member of the Royal Family, reflecting the profile and public significance of the work.

*Ty Mawr Country Park Welcome Project, Wrexham, June 2015 - November 2015*  
*Project Budget £30000*

A large grant funded, public art commission during which we were the sole artists responsible for leading community and school workshops, designing and creating multiple wooden sculptures for the site. We were in control of budgetary management, materiel procurement and public engagement. The work was a response to the surroundings, its history and the public engagement. The public engagement involved people of all ages and helped them respond to the location using found natural materials. The site is on the banks of the River Dee and has a UNESCO heritage site and rich history and the brief was to find inspiration in this, tell the story of the Park and inspire and lead people around the location so that they could fully engage with it. Our creative workshops, engaging 3 schools and two community groups, involved us leading nature walks around the Country Park. We have a deep knowledge and love of nature and so, with the support of a Ranger, we encouraged the children/adults to explore freely and discuss what they observed. The sessions had a loose framework and were designed to be participant led as much as possible. The participants collected found items to use later in another session. The classroom sessions, after the walk, involved the children/ adults responding to the site, and what they had observed, to produce clay sculpture incorporating their found items. It also involved some Hapazome printing with found succulent fauna. One of the schools teachers was astonished at the creativity shown by their pupils, which showed the effectiveness of the engagement. We used the whole process to inspire a series of designs. One of the aspects of the brief was to provide permeable separation between the Park and adjoined municipal playing fields. We designed and created a 300ft wave, created from spaced oak posts, engraved with silhouettes of local fauna. The posts were spaced so as to allow maintenance access but provide a visible barrier. We sculpted signage to improve direction around the park and a trail of sculptural animal way-markers, illustrating the wildlife present. A bench inspired the UNESCO aqueduct completed the work. The project was delivered on budget.

#### *Referees*

Tracey Harding - 07810853320 - [tracey.harding@discovernewmarket.co.uk](mailto:tracey.harding@discovernewmarket.co.uk)  
Tracey was part of the commissioning team and in charge of the Horseplay project.

Nathan Hamer - 07818132071 - [nathan@junctionarts.org](mailto:nathan@junctionarts.org)  
Nathan was part of the commissioning team for "Reclaim" and was our support contact for our latest project "Reclaim".

#### **Testimonials**

*In my 30 year career I have been involved in many amazing projects and initiatives and met some wonderful people. This particular project is way up there on the top of my list and yet I feel on this occasion it has very much been more about you. The way you came up with the story was truly inspirational and you then proceeded to cleverly weave the narrative and add layers to the project. The sculptures alone are truly magnificent but with all the heraldic symbols and mottos it has made the whole project outstanding and Newmarket should be very proud.-*

-Tracey Harding, Discover Newmarket Horseplay project

*"Rob's professionalism, planning and communication have been excellent. His calm, knowledgeable approach with children has been amazing. He adapted to each learning environment and brought out the best in every participant. Neith Art and Sculpture have been a pleasure to work with."*

- Harlow Creates, ongoing commission

*"From application and interview to final installation, Rob & Kim have been a pleasure to work with. They delivered a powerful, locally distinctive piece on time and on budget. Their workshops were meaningful and gave the community ownership of the final sculpture."*

- Nathan Hamer, Junction Arts, Reclaim project

*"The sessions were engaging, relevant, and pitched perfectly. Children were invested and proud of their results."*

- Shiplake Primary School, ongoing commission for Beechcroft LTD

*"Very beneficial sessions — the children were engaged the entire time. Rob encouraged deeper thinking, creativity, and confidence. We'd absolutely welcome him back."*

- Tanys Dell Primary School, ongoing commission for Harlow Creates