

Musselburgh Archer

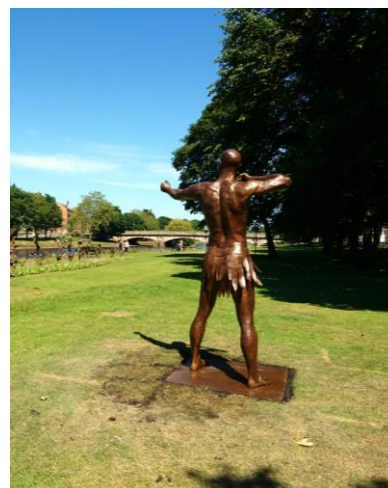
Stage one of a new public artwork has been installed on the west bank of the River Esk, by the Roman Bridge, celebrating the rich heritage of Musselburgh.

East Lothian Council's Arts Service brought together a working group to select and commission an artist to create a new public artwork for the town. The group included representatives from the Musselburgh Area Partnership, Community Council, Musselburgh Conservation Group, local people from the community, Council Officers and elected members. The artwork is funded by Tesco Ltd as part of East Lothian Council's Percent for Art Policy and the artists were awarded £38,000 for the commission.

Artists Svetlana Kondakova and Maja Quille were selected and have installed the first stage of the project, a sculpture entitled *Musselburgh Archer*. The life size, realistic figure represents layers of local history including the Roman invasion in AD 80, the Battle of Pinky Cleugh in 1547, and the Musselburgh Silver Arrow, which dates back to 1603 and is claimed to be the oldest sporting trophy in the world. The artwork will be completed with a series of stainless steel arrows installed at different locations around Musselburgh. The arrows will form a trail around the town to areas of cultural, historical, natural and community significance, for the enjoyment of visitors and locals alike and will be supported by a Global Treasure App, in partnership with Musselburgh Area Partnership.

The artists say: *"We hope that the artwork will link the heritage of Musselburgh to the modern day as well as providing an interactive element of activity for both locals and visitors with the trail."*

More information to follow.



Maja Quille Biography

Maja graduated with a degree in sculpture from Edinburgh College of Art in 2012 and has specialised in public and private commissions since then. She has exhibited widely and created site-specific sculptures for a variety of locations, including Scottish Sculpture Park at Raol Ruadh and rural Rau community in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania.

As well as undertaking individual projects, Maja also works on collaborative projects with a variety of other artists. She has completed a commission for Edinburgh University for their Higgs Centre for

Innovation at The Royal Observatory in Edinburgh in the shape of an optical illusion based on the Higgs Boson. This project, a collaboration with artist Sarah Dale, was installed in May 2018. Maja has also produced a major commission for Aberdeen City Council for Hazlehead Park in the shape of 100 bronze birds in flight. The sculpture is a memorial to the infants whose ashes were lost due to past practices at Hazlehead crematorium.

Maja runs the group Edinburgh Artists with Kids, providing peer support and organising workshops and events based around involving children in the creation of art.

Svetlana Kondakova Biography

Svetlana graduated from Edinburgh College of Art (University of Edinburgh) in 2011. In 2010 she went on exchange to the Athens School of Fine Art (Greece) where she learned the traditional technique of mosaic.

Shortly after graduating, Svetlana spent four months on an artists' residency at Sustainable Bolivia, where she realised a high profile project and public exhibition involving local artists, based on the coca leaf and its many uses. In 2012 she co-founded Black Cube Collective (BCC): a platform for the support and development of emerging artists. In 2016, Svetlana became vice president of Roots Arcadia, a start-up natural agriculture initiative based in a small Greek village where she has involved artists in community building, the regeneration of land and forest and contributing towards sustainable living.

Throughout this time Svetlana has continued to paint, developing new works of art and taking part in exhibitions, including a solo exhibition in 2016 at Union Gallery, entitled *Seven Deadly Sins*. She has also taken part in group and solo exhibitions in Greece, Bolivia, Belgium and Russia.

In May 2018, Svetlana completed a large outdoor mosaic mural in Selkirk, a Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme community project.

Maja and Svetlana have worked together as Kondakova and Quille, collaborating on a number of projects including the *Musselburgh Archer*. In 2014 they installed sculptures *Tree of Knowledge* and *Imprint*, commissioned by Edinburgh Napier University for their Fountainbridge Halls of Residence. Both projects focus on local heritage as well as commemorating WW1 efforts in the area.