



One for Bristol

John Hoskin

On display

Title/Description: One for Bristol

Artist/Maker: John Hoskin

Born: 1968 Exact

Object Type: Outdoor sculpture, Sculpture

Materials: Aluminium, Painted steel

Accession Number: 41399

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: Britain, England

Copyright: © The Artist's Estate

In the 1960s, John Hoskin embraced a radical new style of sculpture, inspired by Anthony Caro and the so-called *New Generation* of younger British sculptors. This phrase was coined after the 1965 exhibition, *The New Generation* at the Whitechapel Art Gallery that focused specifically on emerging forms of sculpture.

Caro became influential as a teacher at St Martin's School of Art, shifting British sculpture out of post-war monochrome and towards a new use of colour and materials more associated with industry than art. *One for Bristol* is one of a small group of works by Hoskin, dating from 1967-8, that clearly express these new tendencies.

Made of painted steel and aluminium, fabricated using constructed methods rather than forging or casting, the title, *One for Bristol*, is a light-hearted reference to location of the first exhibition where the sculpture was seen. This was a group show called *New British Sculpture*, at the Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol. Interestingly, the sculpture was shown in the gallery, but it was subsequently decided the work could also be shown outside. In 1990, shortly after the artist's death, the sculpture was donated to the University and located on campus, where it resides today. The sculpture now forms part of the Sainsbury Centre campus Sculpture Park.

John Hoskin (1922-1990) was born in Cheltenham, England and initially trained as an architect's draughtsman before serving in the Royal Engineers in the Second World War. After the war, with encouragement from Terry Frost, he became an artist. He then worked as an assistant to the

sculptor, Lynn Chadwick. Hoskin's work of the 1950s is typically expressed in bronze, forged or welded metal and wire, and is closely aligned to the style referred to as the 'Geometry of Fear' by the critic Herbert Read, of which Chadwick was a leading exponent.

In 1957 Hoskin was made Head of Sculpture at the Bath Academy of Art, Corsham and in 1978 was appointed Professor of Fine Art at Leicester. His first solo exhibition was at the Lord's Gallery in 1957, and he went on to have successful one-man shows at both the Grosvenor and Matthieson Galleries in the 1960s. A retrospective of his work was held in 1975 at the Serpentine Gallery, London.

The sculpture consists of a forged steel T-bar framework, a cantilevered section three metres long with a further two metres on the return that tapers. The steel is finished in a uniform blue painted livery. There are a series of four aluminium fins attached to the framework inscribed with stencilled paint 'A - D' and the word 'TOP' on the outermost fins.

Calvin Winner, November 2020
