

An architectural rendering of a modern urban development. The scene features a large, multi-story glass-fronted building with a curved facade. In the foreground, there is a paved plaza with a central circular area containing a fountain with several water jets. People are depicted walking, sitting on benches, and playing in the fountain. To the left, a sign on a building reads "READING STATION". The overall atmosphere is bright and modern, with a focus on public space and community interaction.

STATION HILL READING

ARTS PROJECTS PLANNING APPLICATION

AUGUST 2024

CALLISON|TKL
A DESIGN CONSULTANCY OF ARCADIS

INTRODUCTION

Proposals for Art Installations

This design and access statement sets out proposals for art installations to the public realm at One Station Hill and Friars Walk, Reading. The associated application relates to the full planning permission ref:192032 Phase 2 Station Hill, and RMA ref:2015/37 REM Plot E and their associated S106 agreements notably in relation to the deliver of art projects within the development.

The applicant is excited to make this submission for five high quality installations within the public realm. The proposals are set out in detail in this document and the associated application drawings.

The five installations are:

- 1. Mosaic Murals** to the north and south gateways to Station Hill, on the wall to the station underpass, where it faces the Pocket Park, and to the south end of Friars Walk at its junction with Friar Street.
- 2. Pivotal**, which is a reinterpreted flag structure between the office block and the Pocket Park.
- 3. Seed**, a sculpture that sits adjacent to the water feature west of the office block and on route to the bridge that spans Garrard Street.
- 4. Bridge Railings** are panels that are set out in sequence either side of the bridge that narrate Reading's history and culture.

Context

Station Hill is a microcosm of the town, reflecting Reading’s history of curiosity, innovation and community while representing a new urbanism.

The site presents a new public realm routeway for visitors and residents alike. Integrated public artworks will create a coherent, flowing narrative of Station Hill, emboldening the DNA of this urban, multi-use hub for Reading with culture.

They will create the journey, acting as much as wayfinding markers and connectors to Reading’s broader cultural offer as curious and interactive works of sculpture. They will activate the space, providing critical new outdoor places for spontaneity, seasonal and regular events that transform local histories into future narratives, defining a new destination for Reading.

Governance

An Advisory Group was formed to ensure that the Public Art Programme on Station Hill will be successfully integrated into other activities across Station Hill and wider Reading, linking with and supporting existing and future arts and public realm activity to maximize its impact and public benefit.

The Advisory Group individually assessed each artist and proposal against agreed criteria, based on the quality of response to the commission, relevance to context, technical feasibility and contribution to the public realm.

Members included councillors, Reading Council officers and representatives from local art groups.

Accessibility

All the works are set within the public realm of Station Hill, a pedestrianised and highly accessible environment, where people of all abilities will be able to experience the installations.

This Document
This document illustrates how each piece has been considered in relation to its context and the wider setting of Reading and how the concept for the piece was considered and developed. The application drawings attached show the pieces in relation to scale of the surrounding buildings.

INTRODUCTION

Mosaic Murals

The Mosaic Murals Commission at the site’s north and south gateways – Station Hill Square and Friar Street – will act as bookends that will ‘define the destination’ and portray the vibrancy that is distinct to Reading, creating a connection between people and place. The project speaks to the universal need for meaningful connection and desire to see ourselves reflected in our surroundings.

Extensive community engagement formed part of the design process. Artists Stuart Melrose and Kevin Munday worked with local schools on illustrations created by the students incorporated in the final design.



Bridge Railings

The Bridge Railings Commission reframes the gateway Garrard Street bridge railings into an eye-catching artwork. Creating an eventful entrance to both the development and the town. It sets out a narrative of place with meticulous detail and craftsmanship drawing upon Reading’s history to establish a marker for the onward journey.



Sculpture Series, Pivotal and Seed

The Sculpture Series commission will present two artworks, Seed and Pivotal, that will frame key nodes of the development, encouraging interactivity, serving as places to sit and contemplate or providing a moment of cultural surprise.

Pivotal, a monumental flag inspired kinetic artwork, will mark this new bright and creative era for Reading. A flag was a particularly relevant reference for this project as it is simultaneously used to mark an occasion, lead the way as well as describe a collective identity.

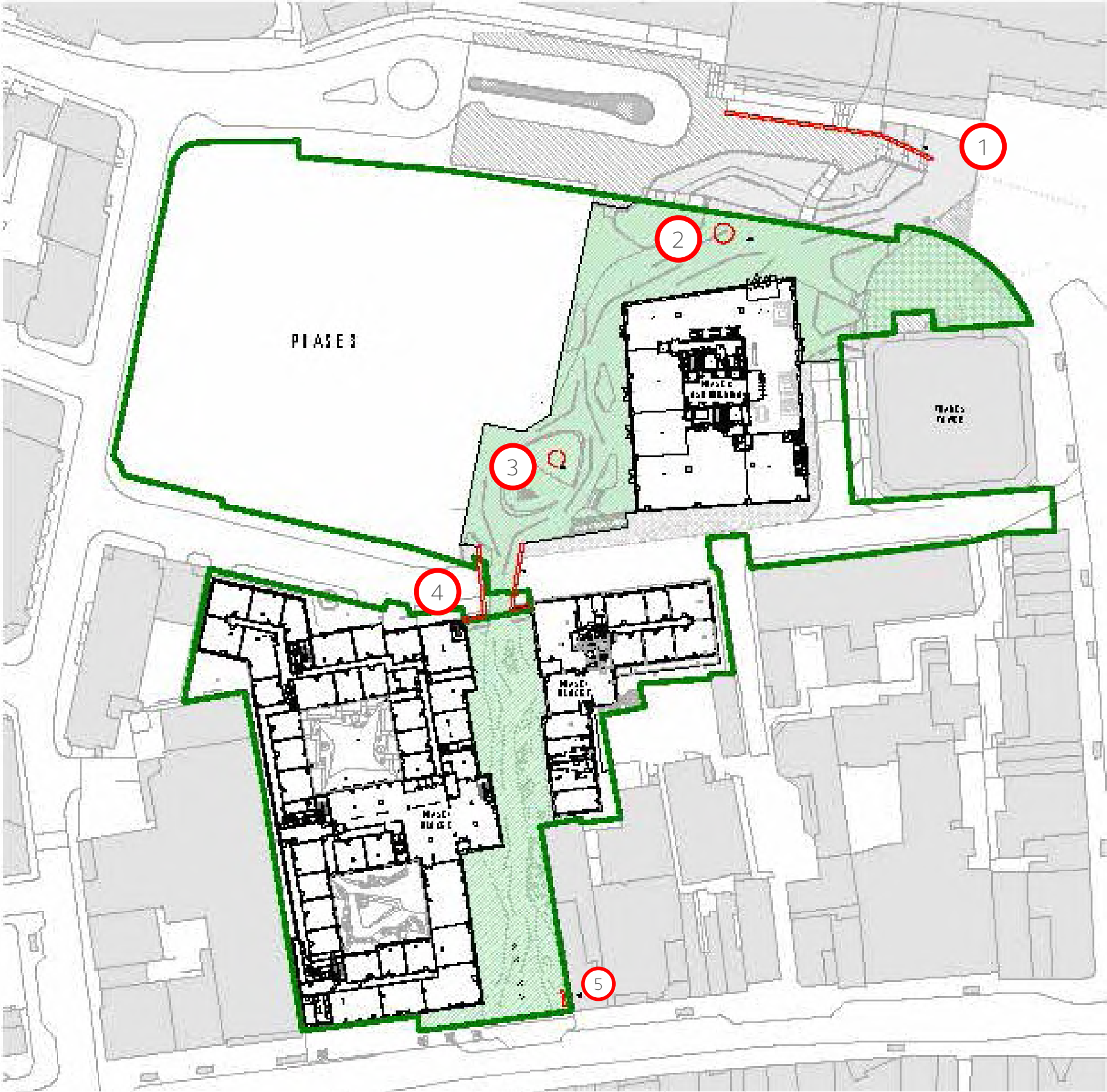
The concept for Seed is inspired by the origins of Sutton seeds in 19th century Reading. A seed can be thought of as a metaphor for potential, transformation, legacy and hope which reflects the vision of Station Hill as a new and important destination in Reading.

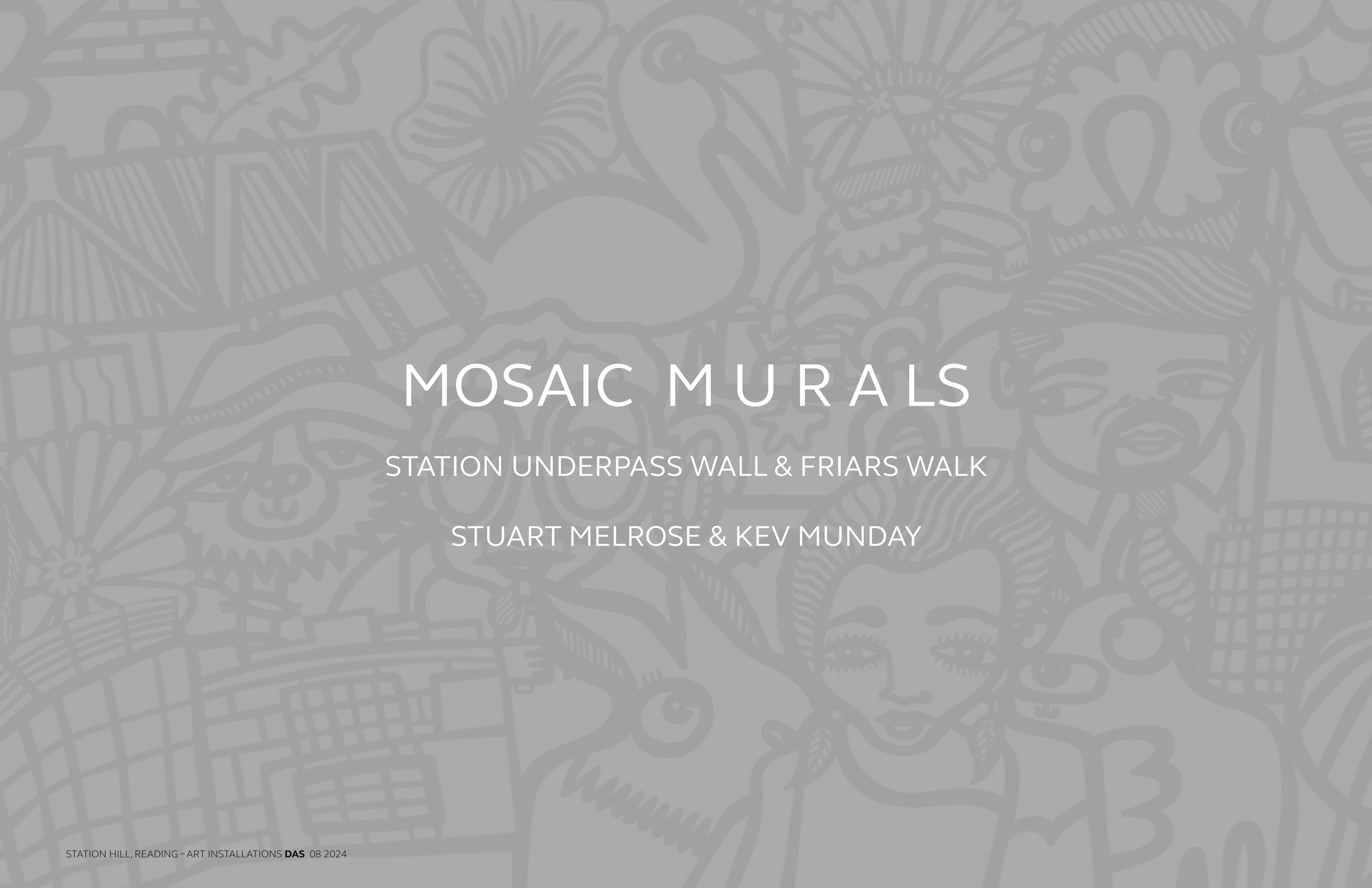
When observed under magnification, botanical seeds offer a mesmerising world of visually captivating forms which served as points of departure for designing the sculpture.



ART LOCATIONS

- 1 Mosaic Mural - Station Underpass Wall
- 2 Pivotal
- 3 Seed
- 4 Link Bridge
- 5 Mosaic Mural - Friars Walk





MOSAIC MURALS

STATION UNDERPASS WALL & FRIARS WALK

STUART MELROSE & KEV MUNDAY

MOSAIC MURALS | STUART MELROSE & KEV

Initial Concept

The starting point for the mural artworks was to create a list of characters, stories and landmarks relating to Reading, to populate the illustrations with.

For this the artist carried out their own research as well as contacting several local councillors for input.

Their initial concept was to split the two artworks up by 'People & Stories' at Friars Walk, and 'Buildings & Landmarks' on the office soffit.



Oscar Wilde



William Marshall



Dr Ethelwyn Trewovas



Jane Austen



King Henry 1



Reading Town Hall



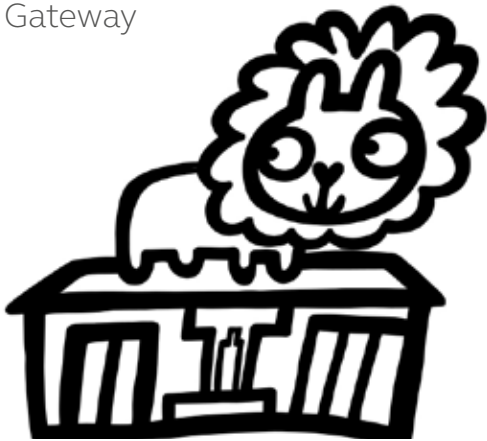
Abbey Gateway



Abbey Ruins



St James Church



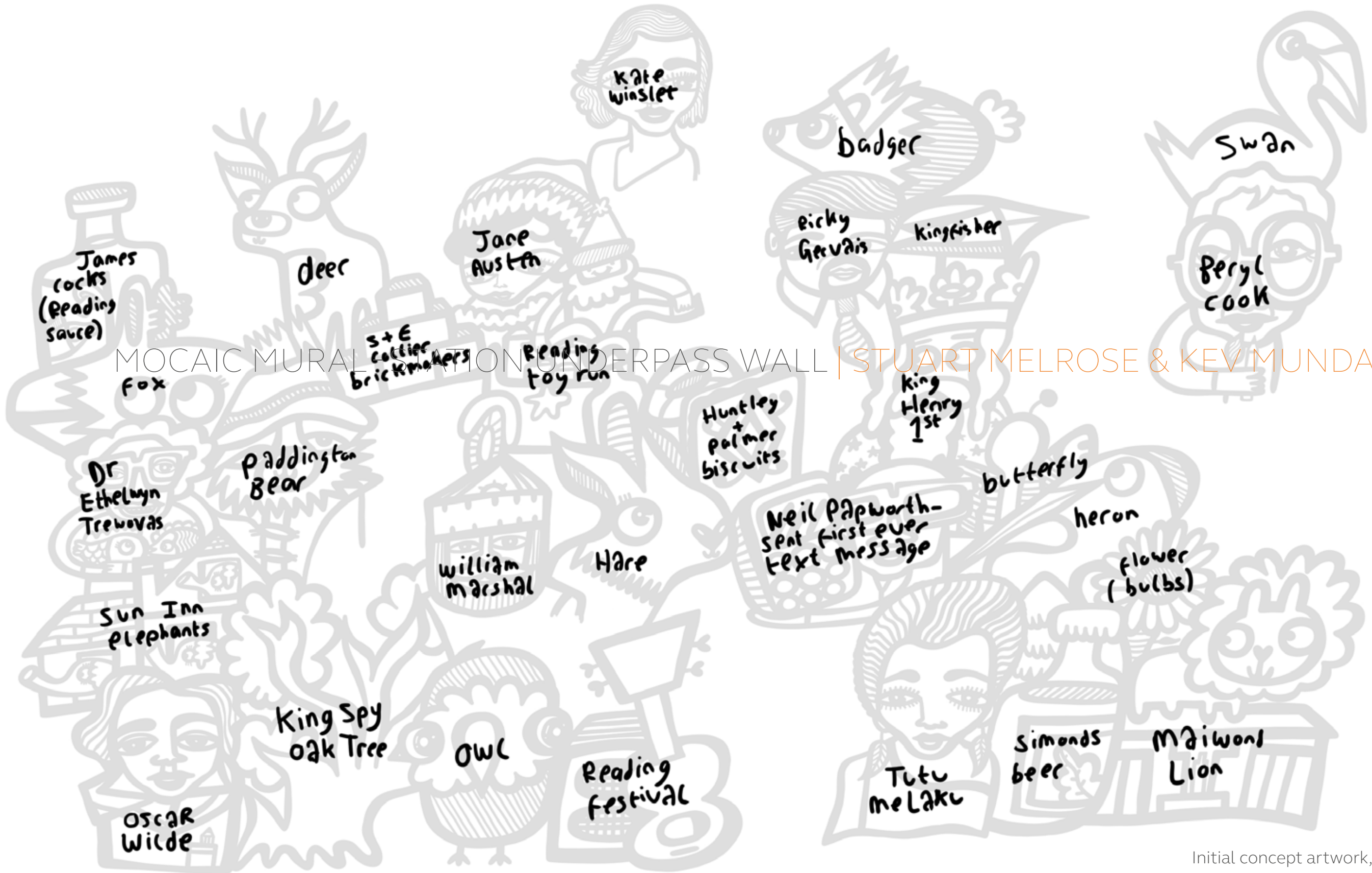
Maiwond Lion

MOCAIC MURALS | STUART MELROSE & KEV MUNDAY



Initial concept artwork for Friars Walk, with gaps left for community input

MOCAIC MURALS - | STUART MELROSE & KEV MUNDAY



Initial concept artwork, labelled.

MOCAIC MURALS | STUART MELROSE & KEV MUNDAY

The Proposal

Having been offered the site outside the train station, the artists developed thier concept and differentiated the artworks by:

Train Station Mural
Recent historical and future Reading

Friars Walk Mural
Historical Reading

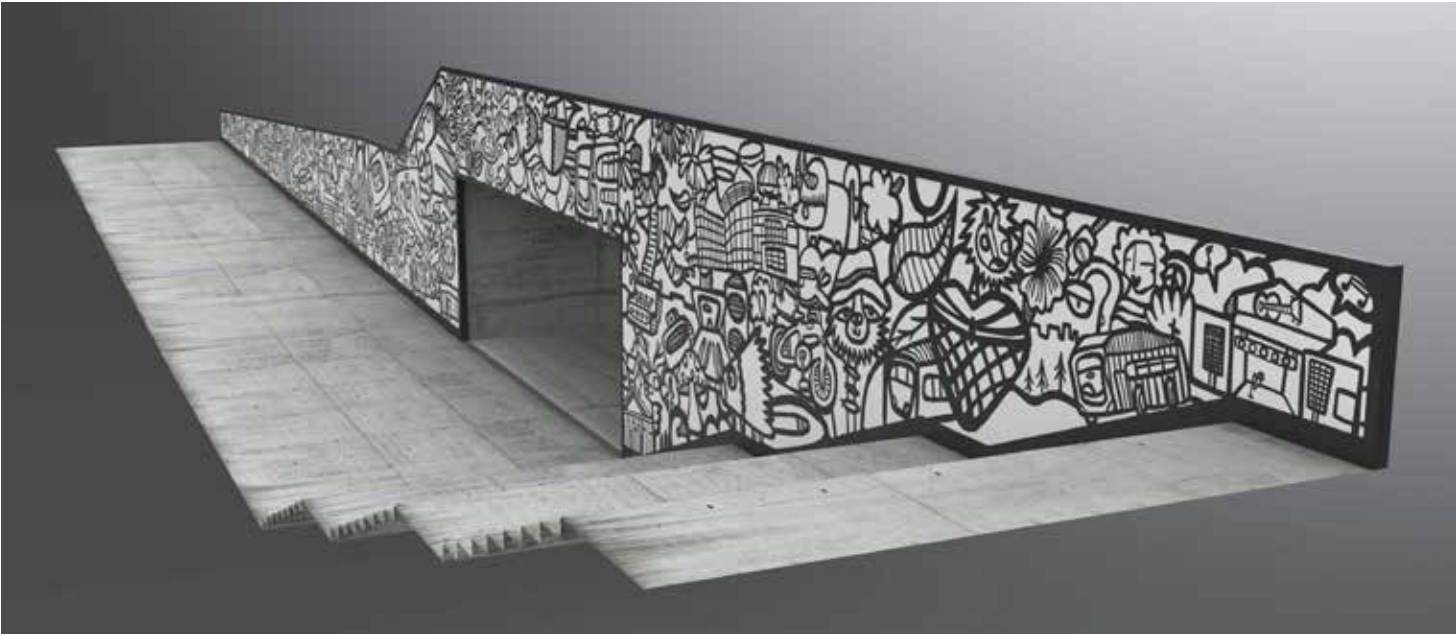
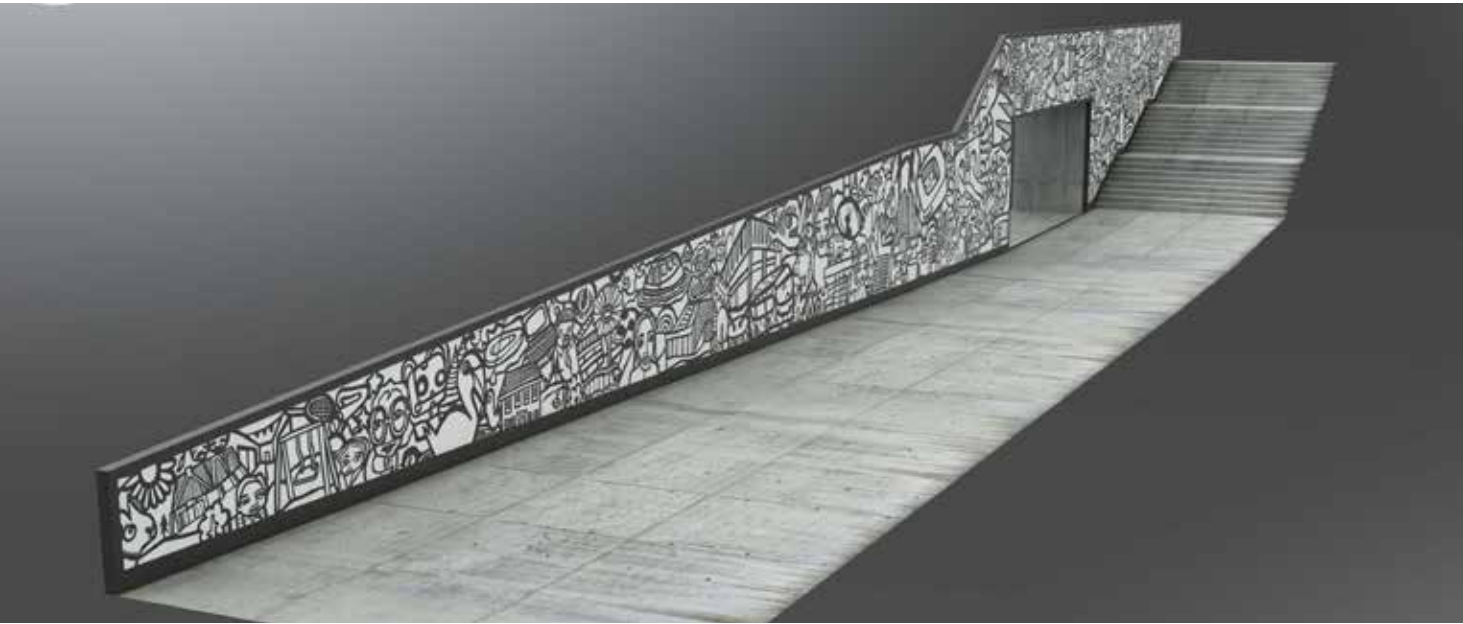
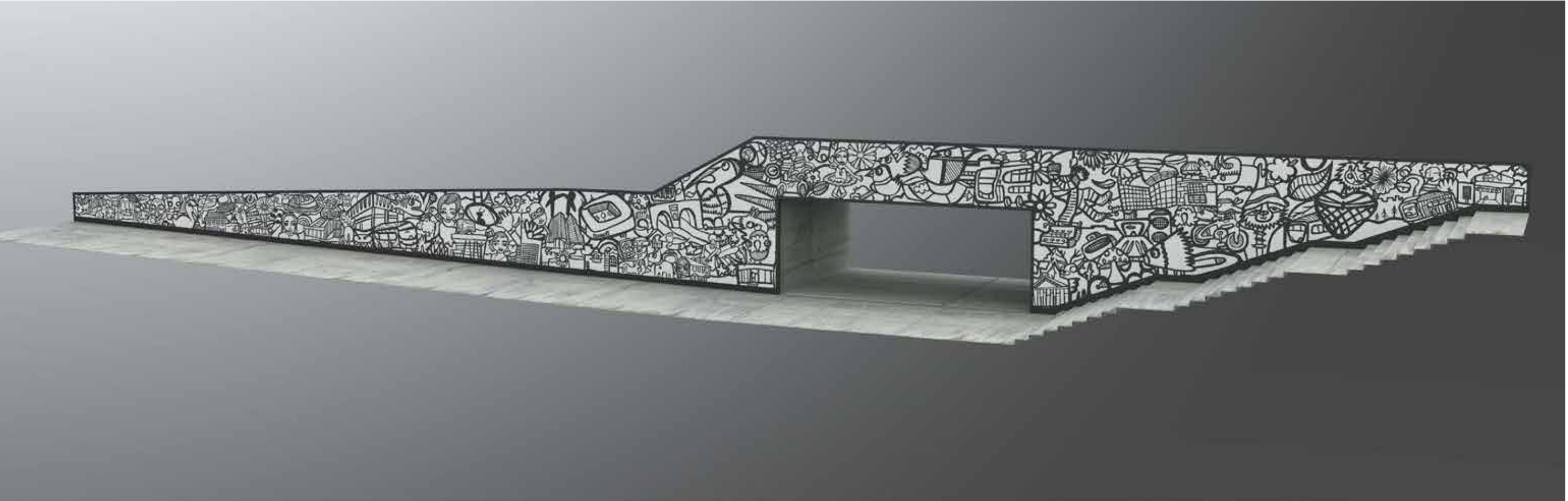
As they felt that this would be more site specific to the development and add more intrigue to the illustrations.



Initial sketch of a small section of the mural for the train station site.

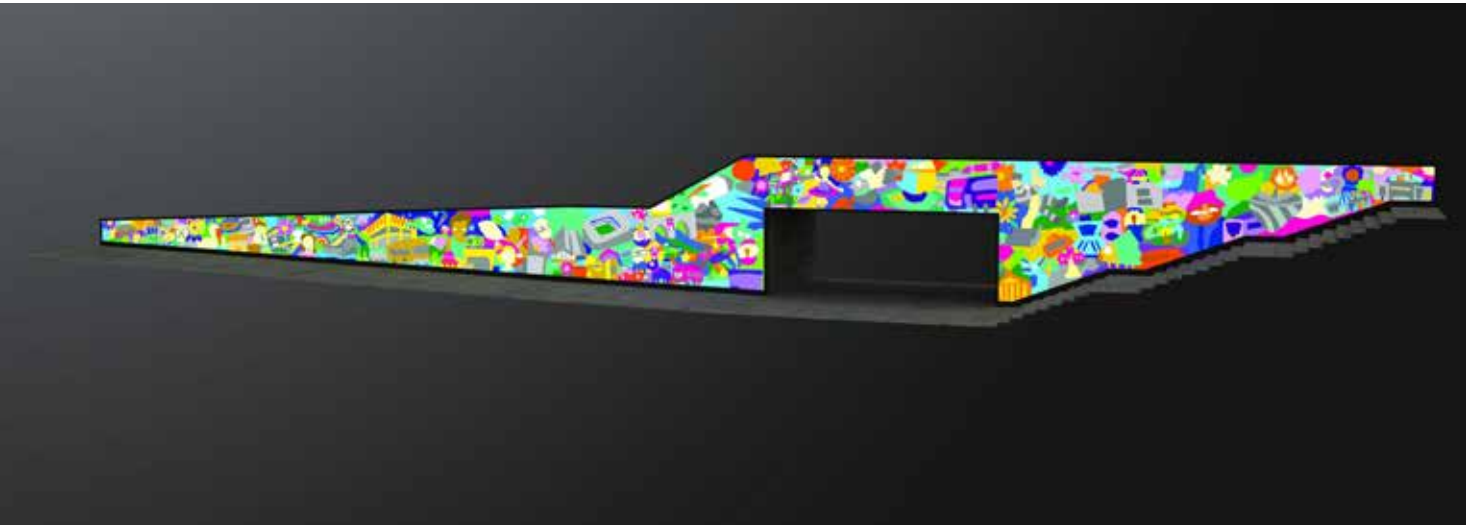


MOCAIC MURAL - STATION UNDERPASS WALL | STUART MELROSE & KEV MUNDAY



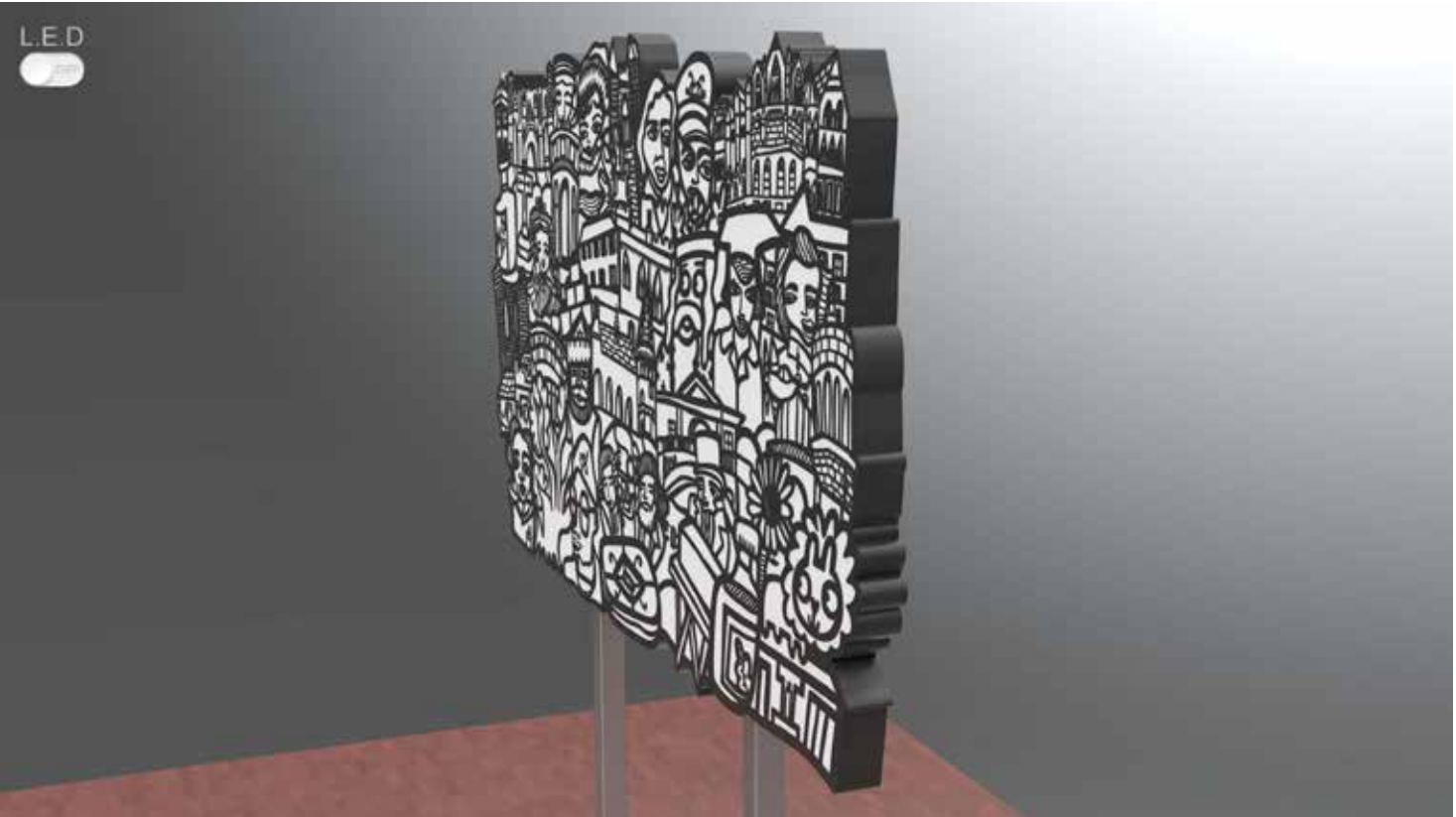
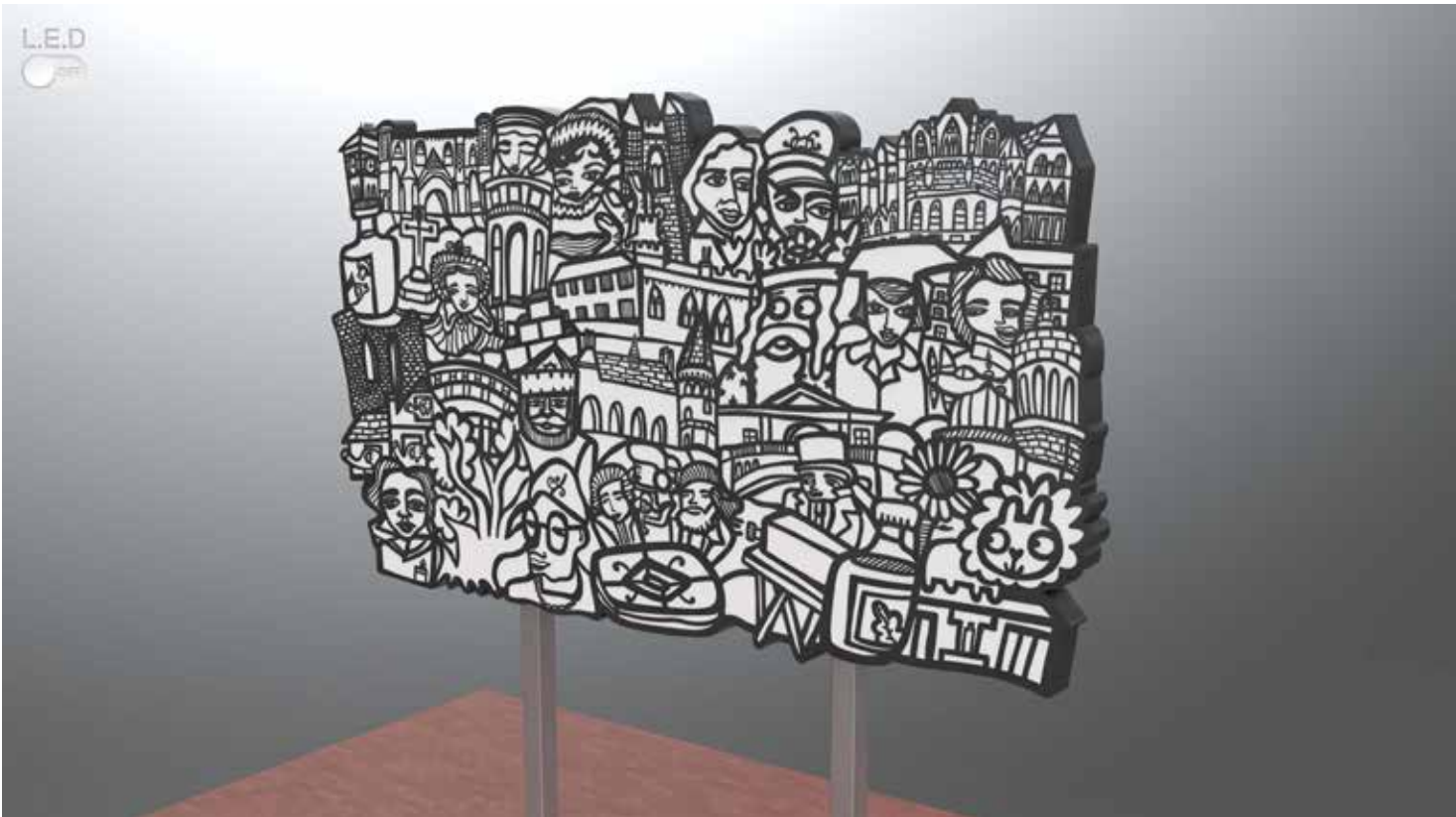
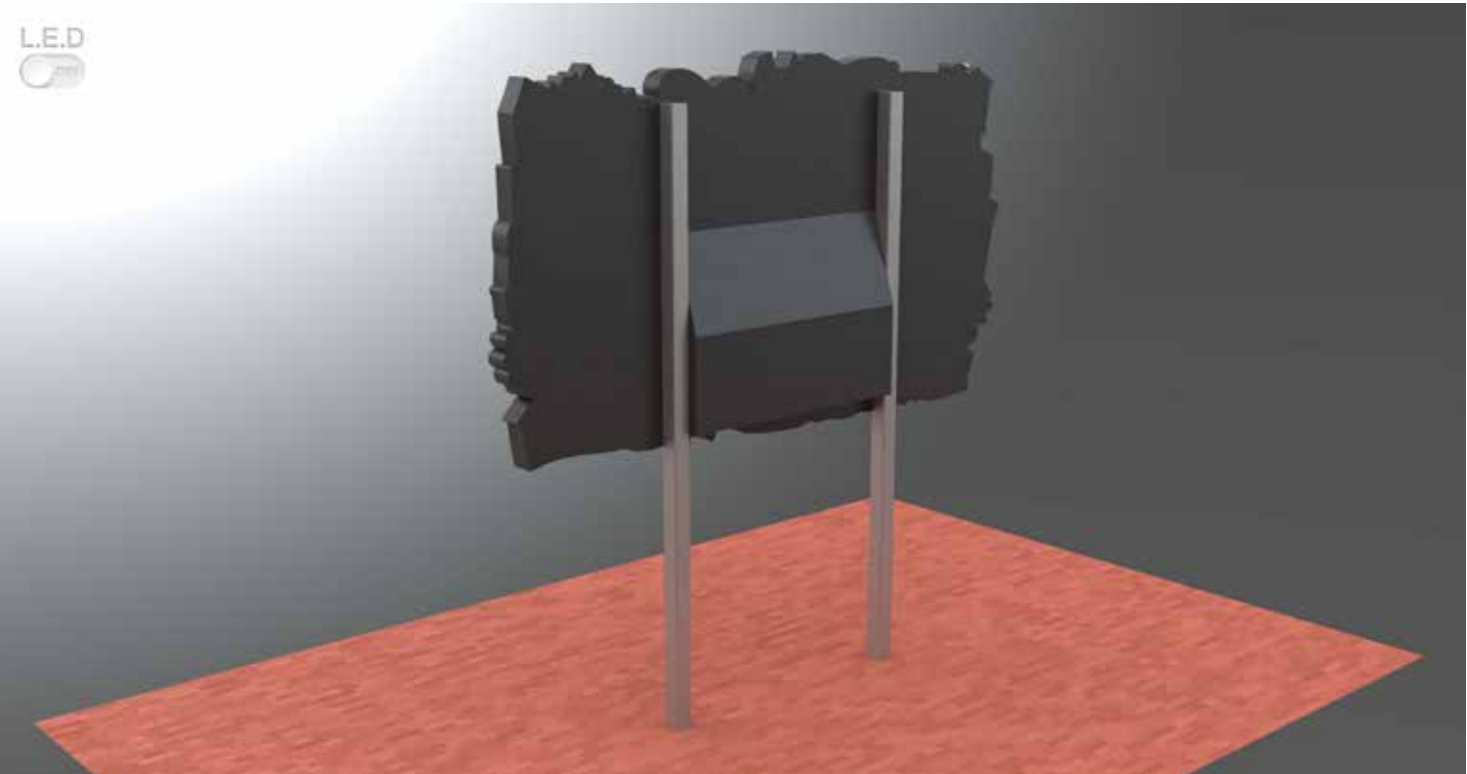
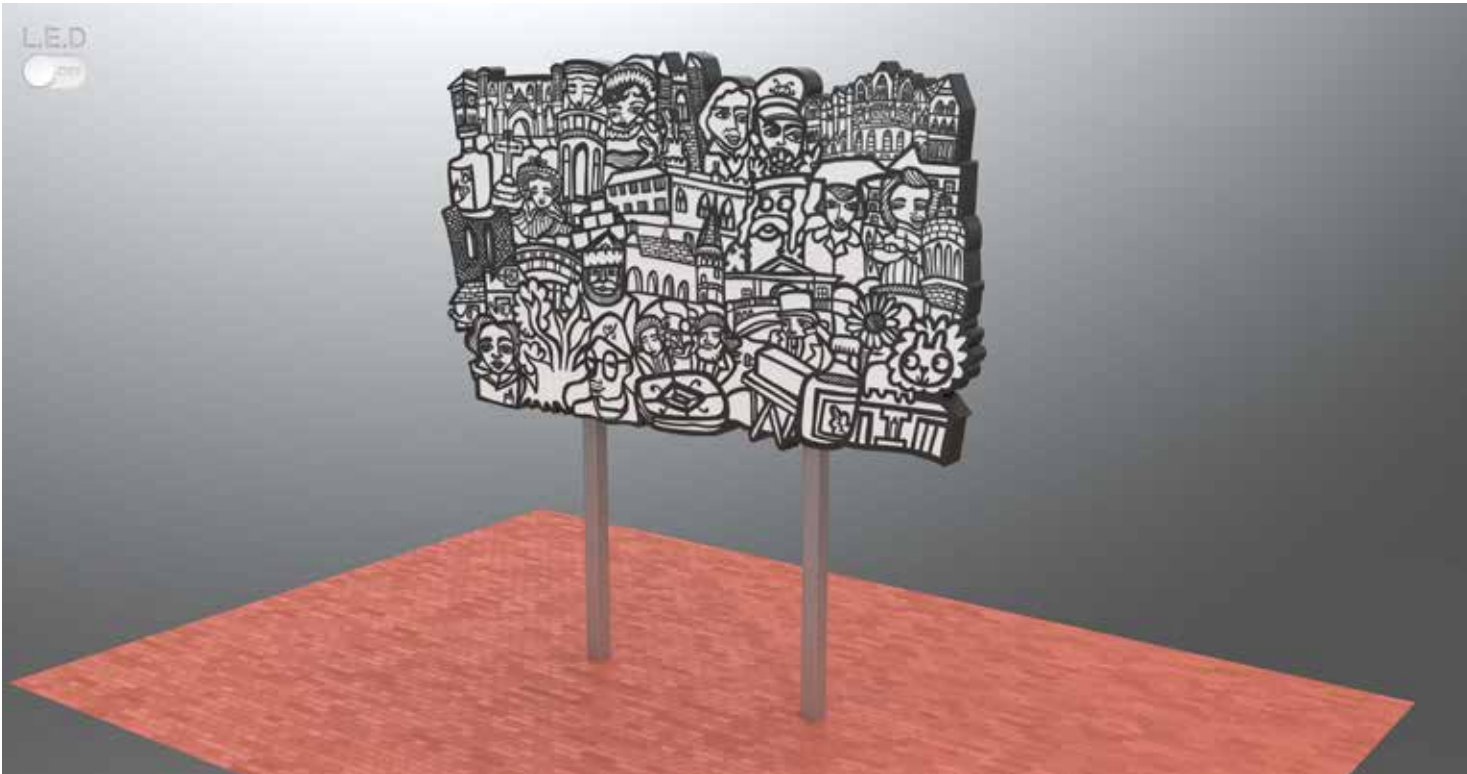
Developed concept for the Mural.
The Mural is fixed to the station steps/underpass wall.
The depth of build up provides the space for LED fittings that back light the Mural.

MOCAIC MURAL - STATION UNDERPASS WALL | STUART MELROSE & KEV MUNDAY



Developed concept showing back lighting illuminating the Mural.
LED fittings back-light the Mural, enhancing its colours.
The LEDs can be programmed to change the colour experience.

MOSAIC MURAL: FRIARS WALK | STUART MELROSE & KEV MUNDAY

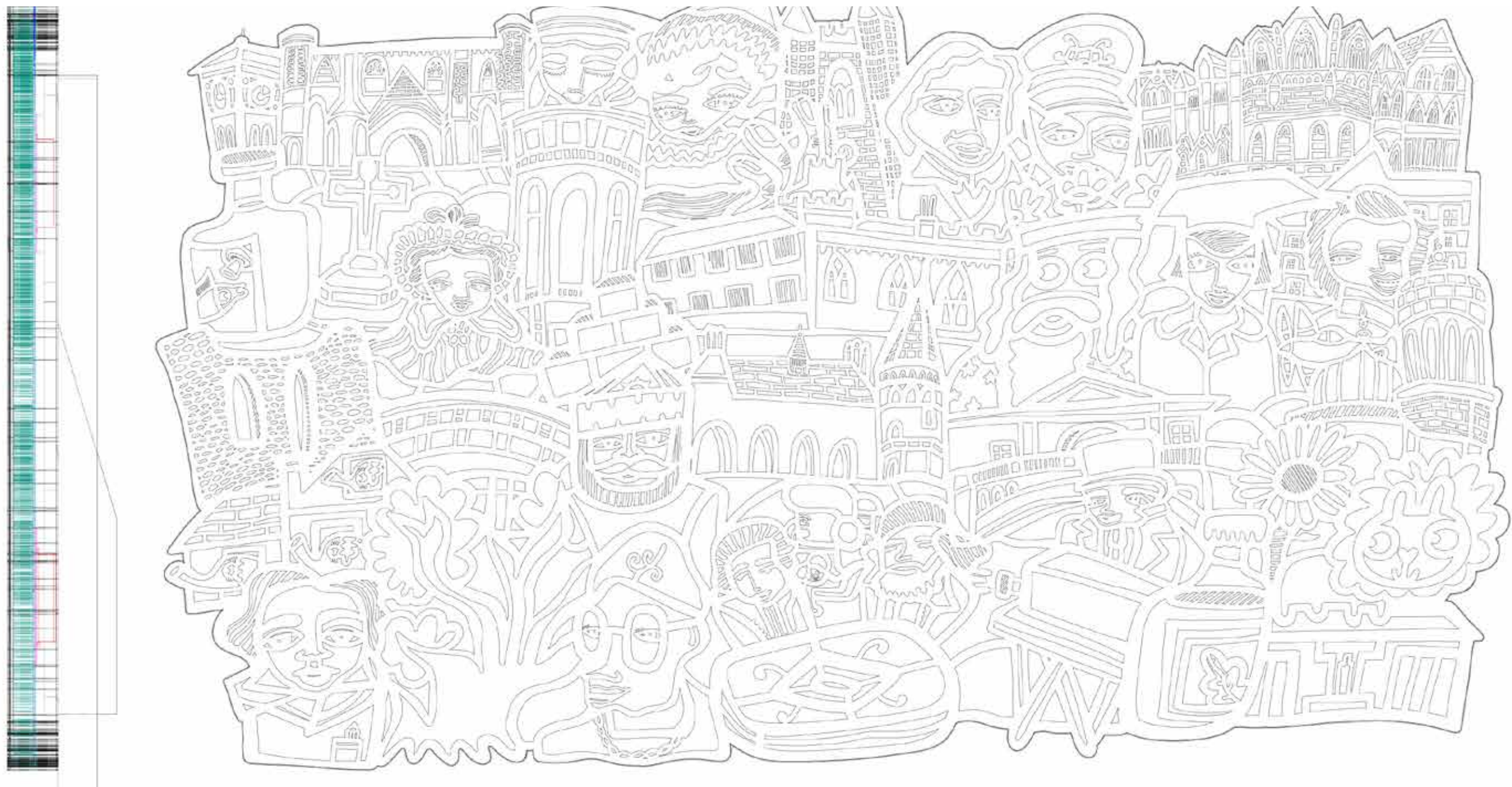


The Mural is fixed to two posts and set away from the part wall with 39 Friar Street. The depth of build up provides the space for LED fittings that back light The Mural.

MOSAIC MURAL: FRIARS WALK | STUART MELROSE & KEV MUNDAY



MOSAIC MURAL: FRIARS WALK | STUART MELROSE & KEV MUNDAY





PIVOTAL

NEON

The Concept

While it is impossible to predict what the future holds, it is certain that the future of Reading will be defined by the people that inhabit it today. An environment like Station Hill that has been designed to be responsive and adaptable to urban shifts, will provide the best possible framework for the people who use it to thrive.

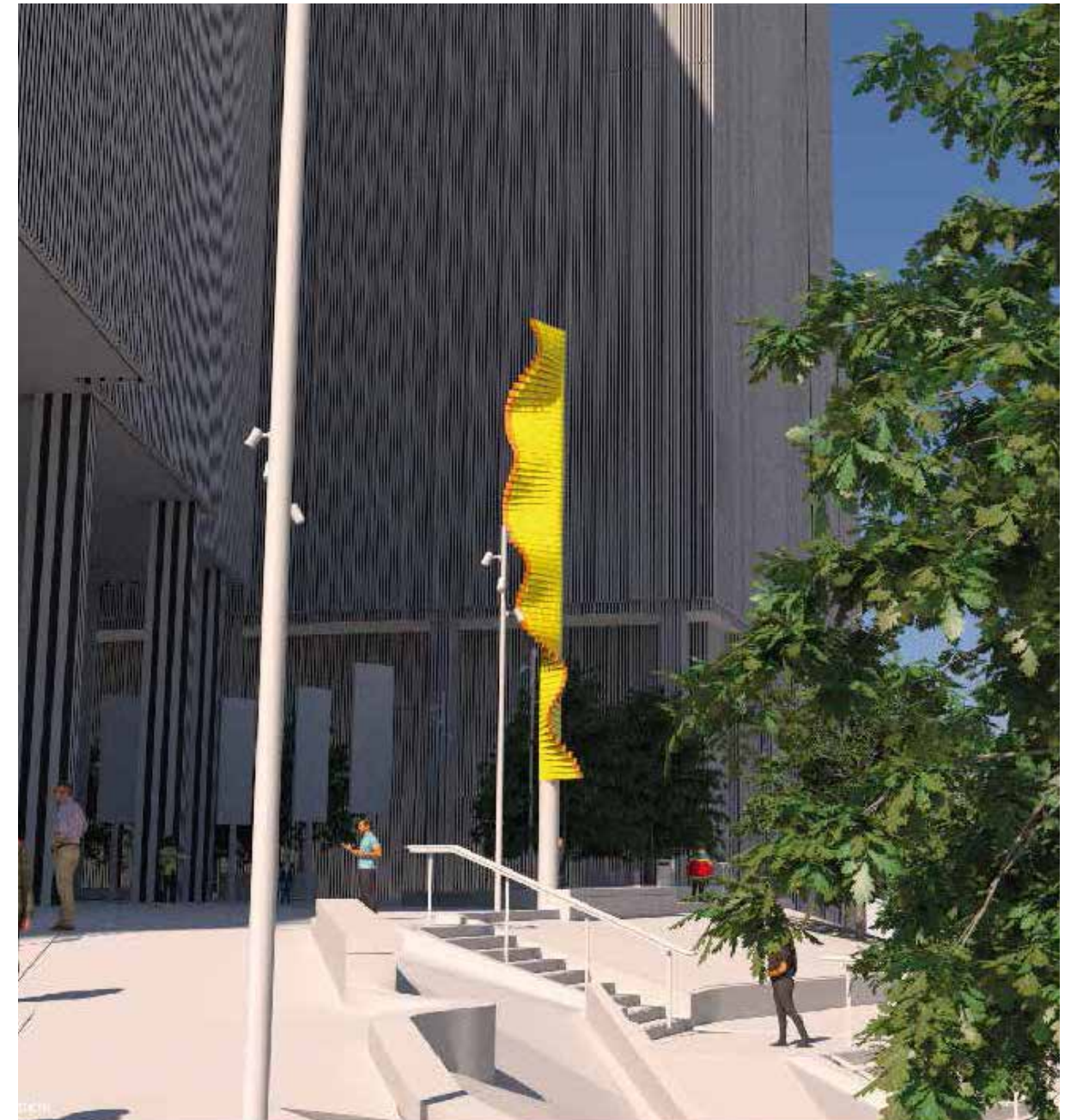
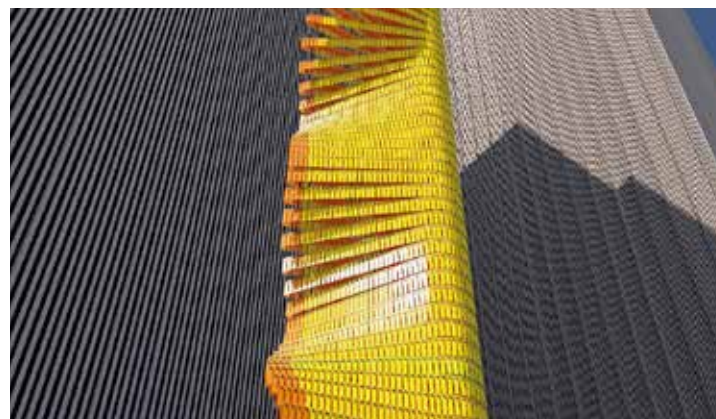
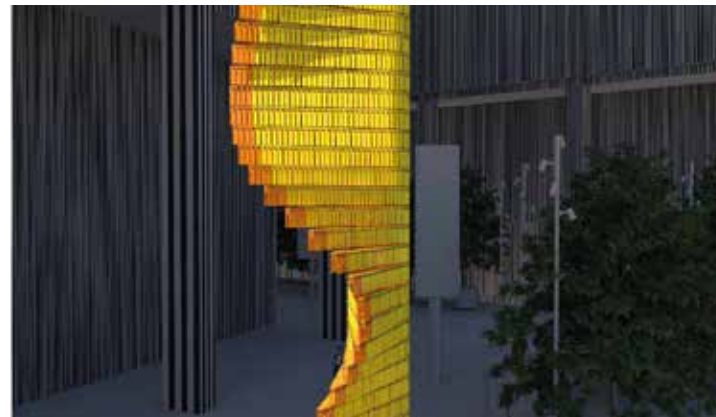
This commission was inspired by this notion of adaptability. The work is entitled “Pivotal”. This word can mean that an event is important but can also describe a mechanical motion where something rotates on an axis.

The proposal is a monumental flag inspired kinetic artwork that will mark this new bright and creative era for Reading. A flag seems a particularly relevant reference for this project as they are simultaneously used to mark an occasion, lead the way and describe a collective identity.



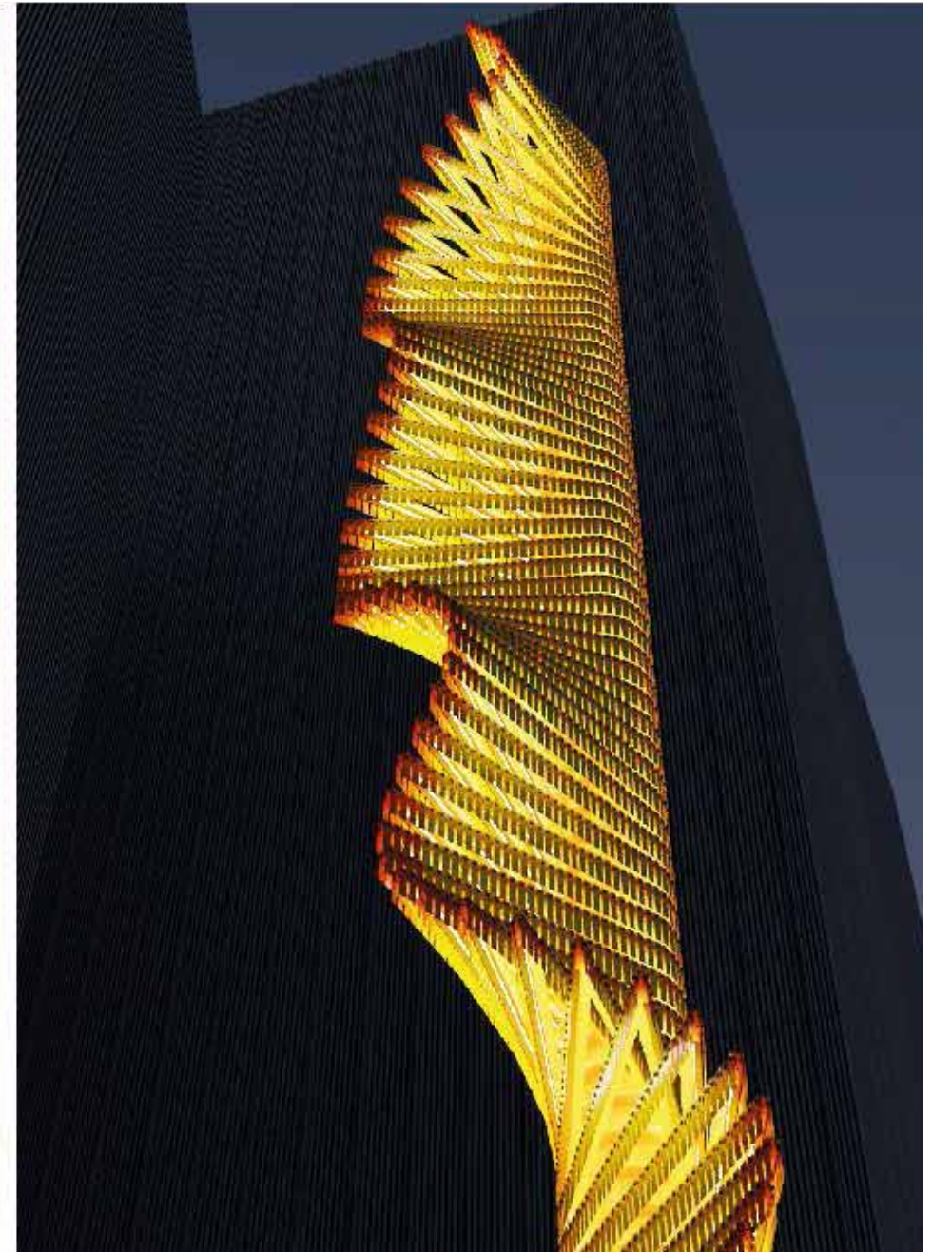
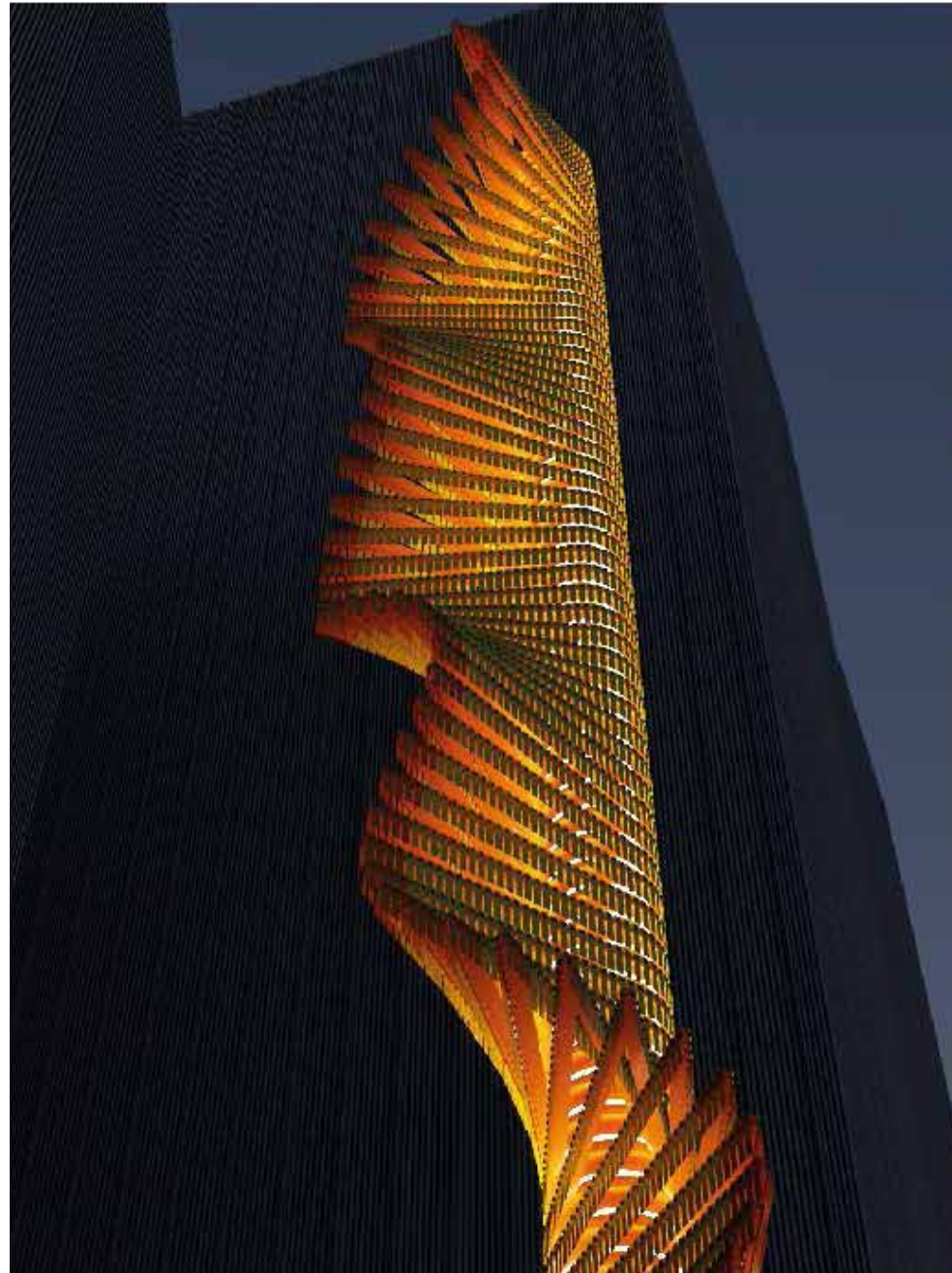
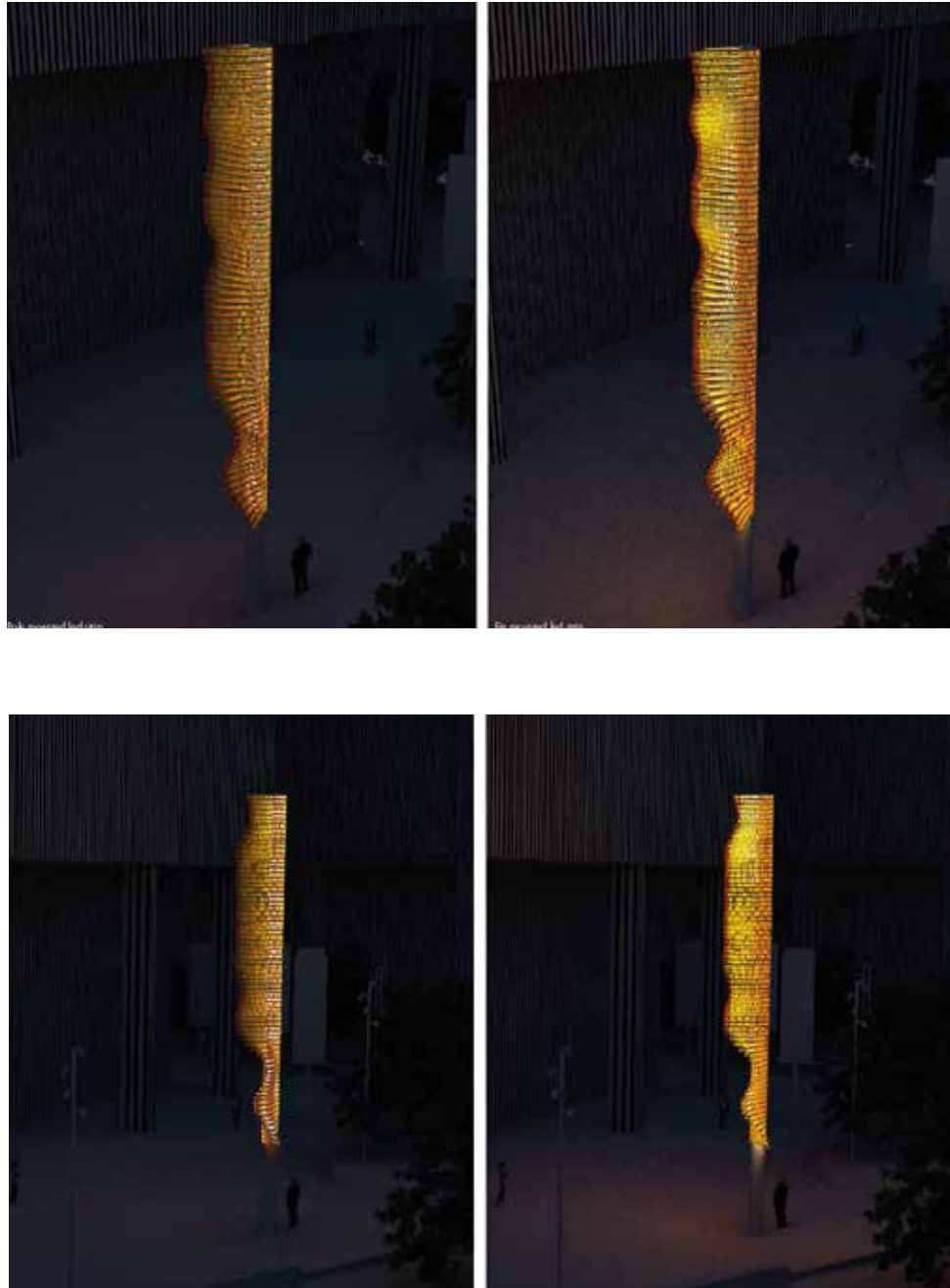
The Proposal

This proposal used a series of fins that project from a pole in a flowing motion. Each fin can be lit at night to create a beautiful focal point between the Pocket Park and the building. The artists have worked closely with engineers and fabricators to design this complex and intriguing work.



Daytime views.

PIVOTAL | NEON



Lighting will enhance the sculpture after dark.



SEED

RACHAEL CHAMPION & JONATHAN TRAYTE

SEED | RACHAEL CHAMPION & JONATHAN TRAYTE

The Concept

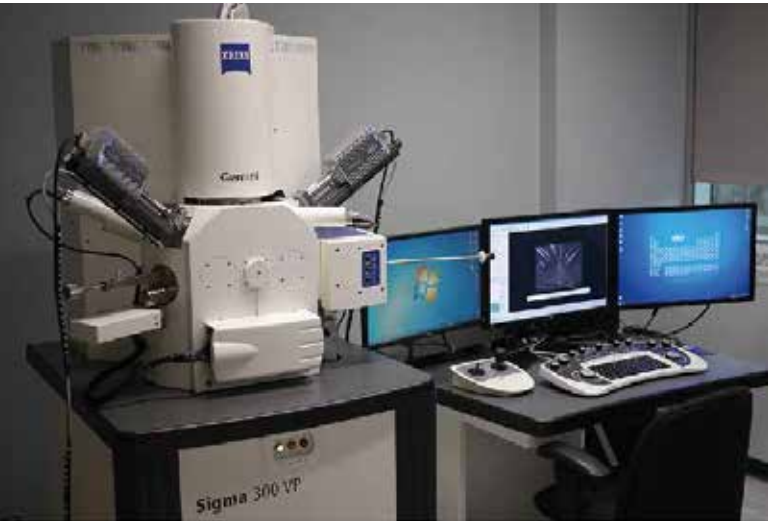
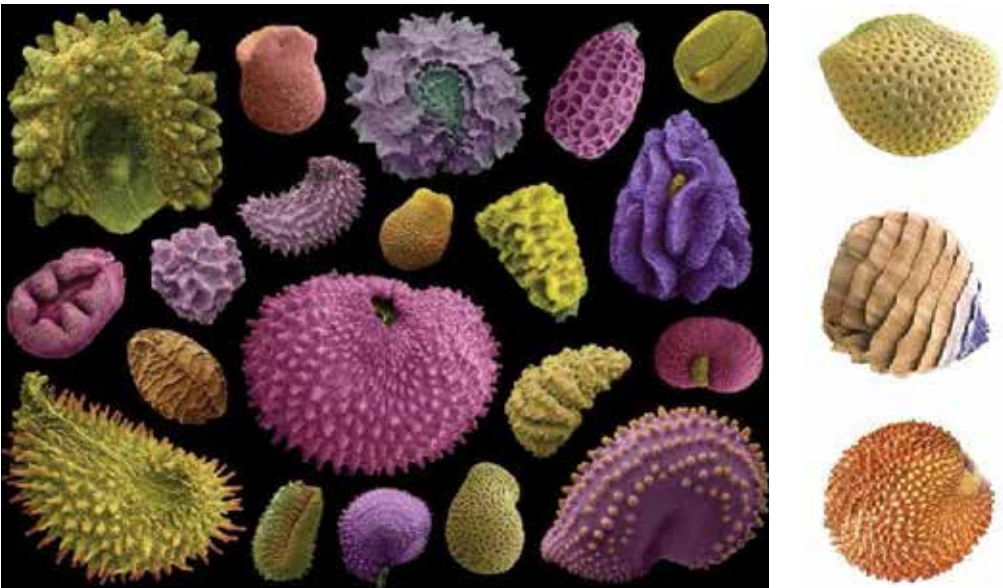
The concept for Seed is inspired by the origins of Sutton Seeds in 19th century Reading. When researching potential avenues of inspiration for this project, the artists found an affinity for this aspect of Reading’s history.

A seed can be thought of as a metaphor for potential, transformation, and legacy which reflects the vision of Station Hill as a new and important destination in Reading.

When observed under magnification, botanical seeds offer a mesmerising world of visually captivating forms, which have inspired the concept and design for the artwork.

Seed is inspired by *Calendula officinalis*, Pot marigold – a well-known and beloved garden plant. It most likely native to Southern Europe, though its long history of cultivation makes its precise origin unknown. The colour of the sculpture is derived from the colour of the flower.

This seed has been selected in dialogue with Station Hill’s Advisory Group.

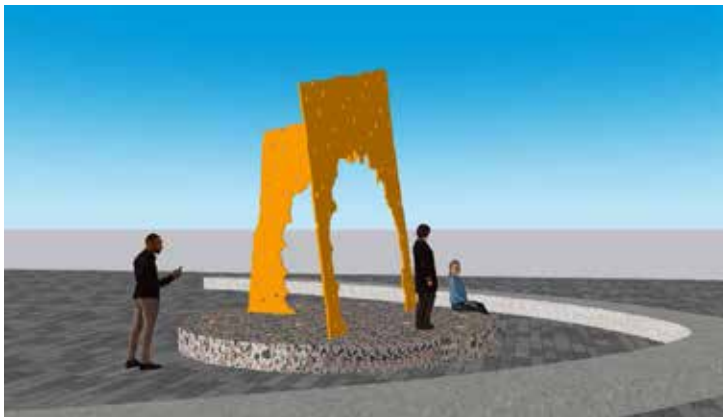


SEED | RACHAEL CHAMPION & JONATHAN TRAYTE

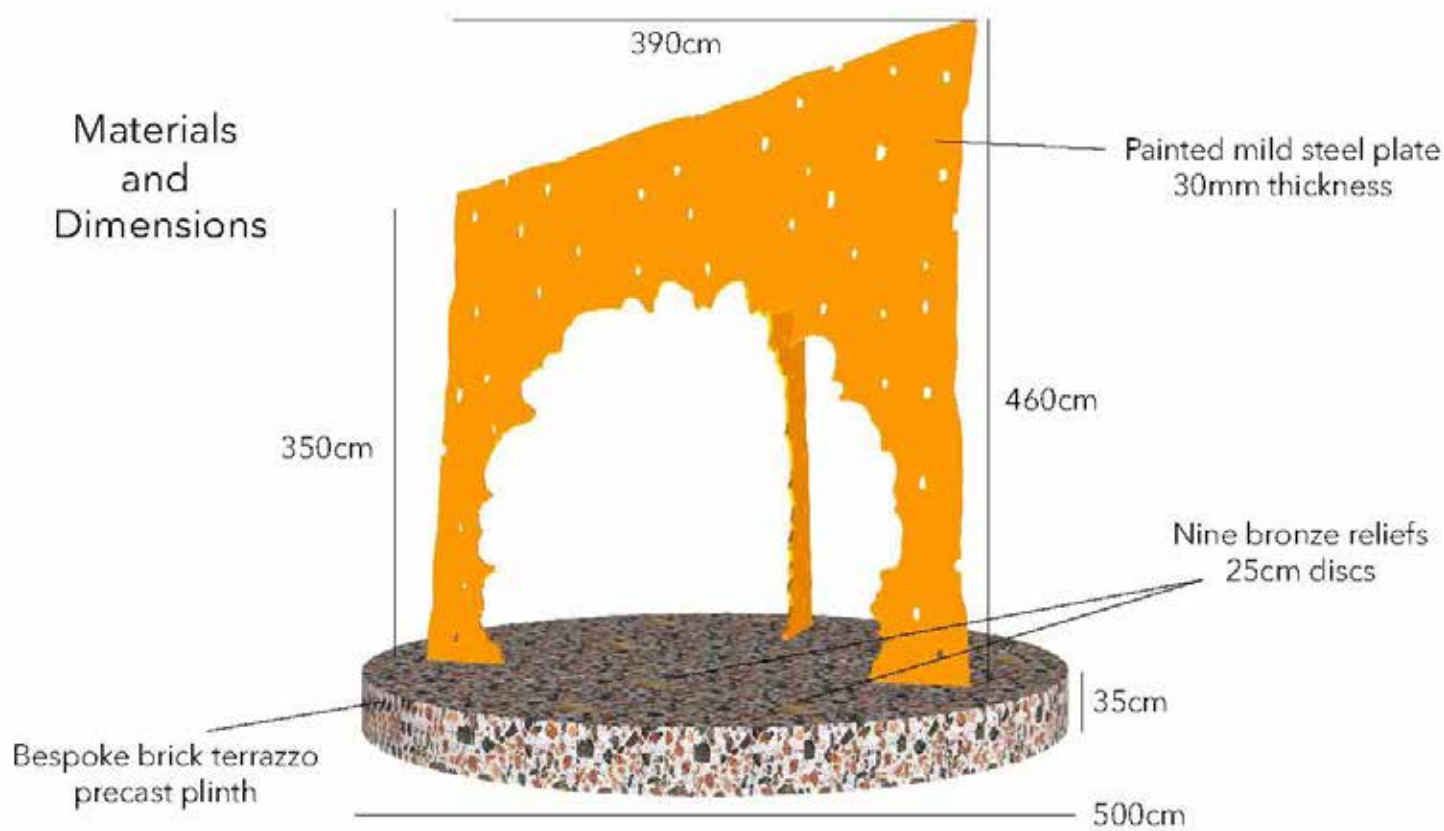
The Proposal

The sculpture sits on a cylindrical plinth measuring 5 metres in diameter and 35cm in height. The plinth functions as a platform for the *Calendula officinalis* silhouette, a place for people sit, as well as a host for the bronze reliefs.

The plinth is made in two sections of precast concrete in a honed bespoke brick terrazzo finish. Brick will be included in the terrazzo aggregate mix to reference Reading's quintessential brick heritage.



Materials and Dimensions



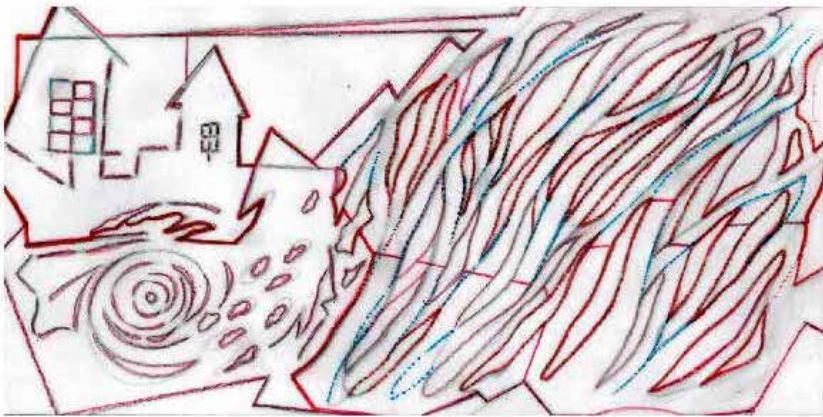


LINK BRIDGE

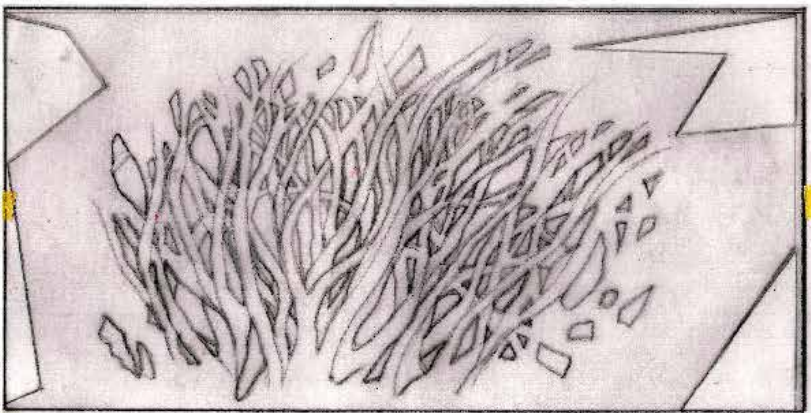
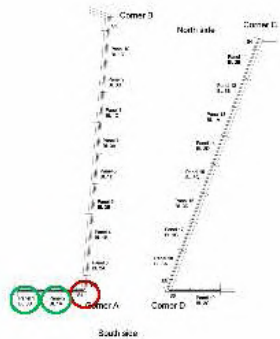
PETRE NIKOLOSKI

LINK BRIDGE | PETRE NIKOLOSKI

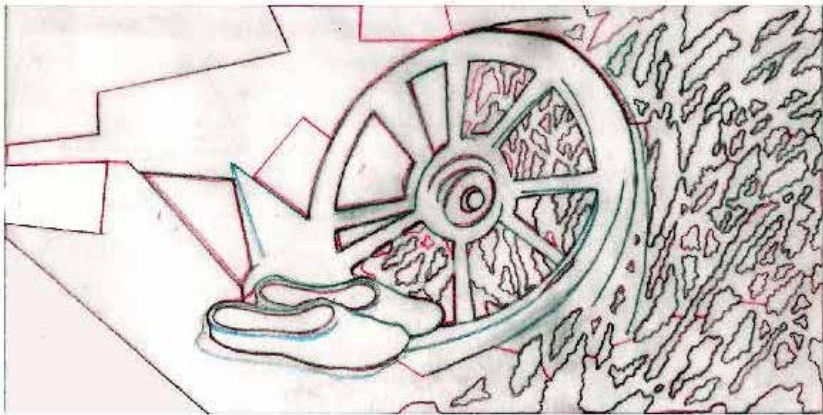
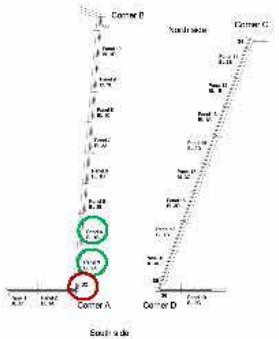
The Concept: Art Panels



PANEL 1: The balance of Reading's urban environment, rivers and trees



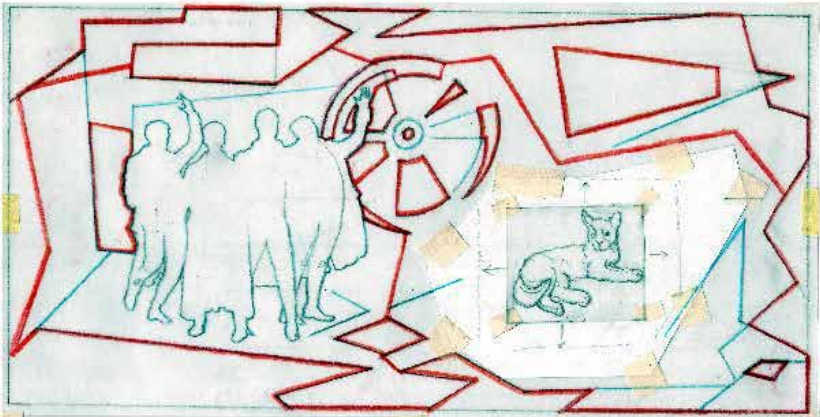
PANEL 3: The wind through the branches and grass



PANEL 2: The artefacts from Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) - wooden dogs and wheel with shimmering background



PANEL S1: Stag



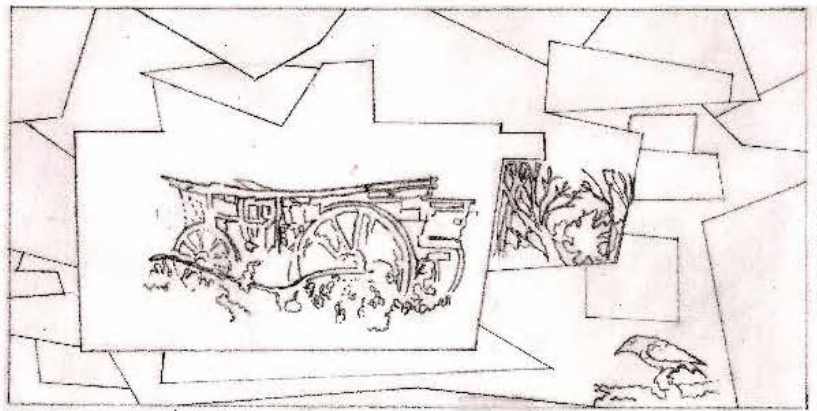
PANEL 4: People in conversation and a cat is relaxing



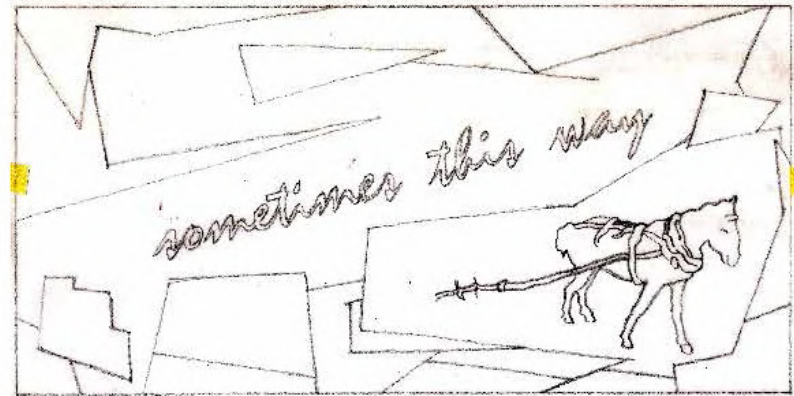
PANEL S2: Stag

The Bridge Railings Commission reframes the gateway Garrard Street bridge railings into an eye-catching artwork. It sets out a narrative of place with meticulous detail and craftsmanship drawing upon Reading's history. Laser cut and engraved stainless steel panels face the public realm with decorative backing panels facing Garrard Street.

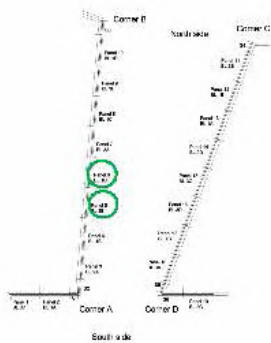
LINK BRIDGE | PETRE NIKOLOSKI



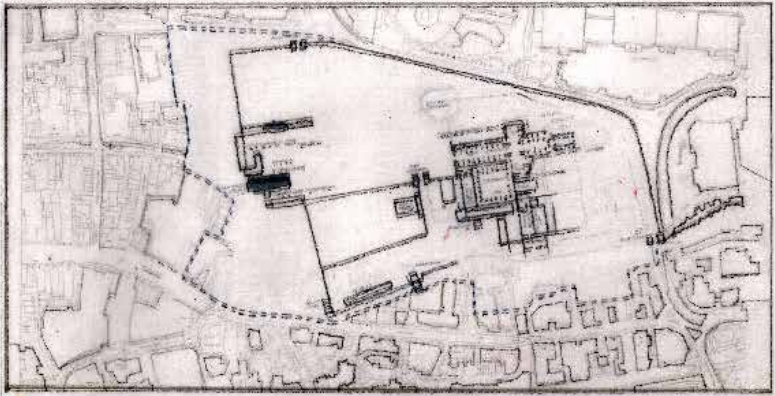
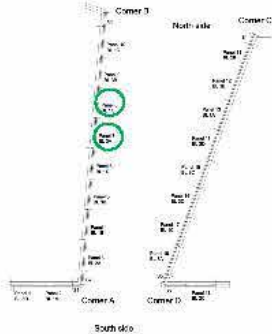
PANEL 5: MERL photograph, abandoned farm cart, trees and a bird



PANEL 6: Overheard street conversation: "Sometimes this way ..."
+ inspiration from MERL collection: horse pulling a weight

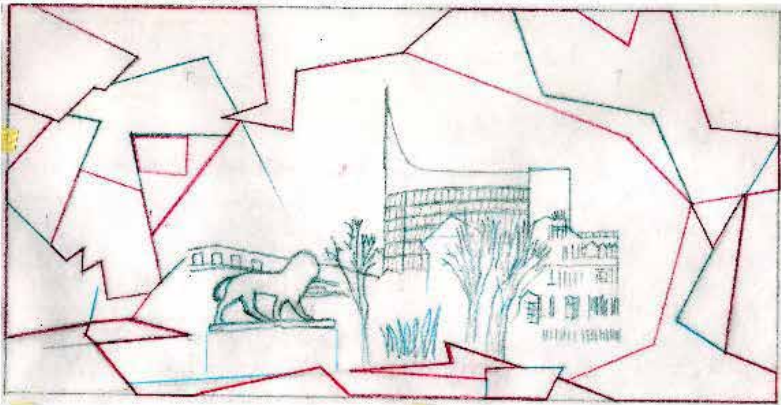


PANEL 7: Oscar Wilde and his poem "The Ballad of Reading Goal"

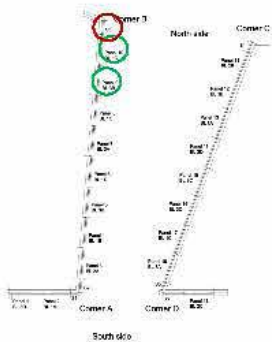


PANEL 8: The site of Reading Minster of St Mary the Virgin,
11th-12th century

LINK BRIDGE | PETRE NIKOLOSKI



PANEL 9: The Blade – view from Forbury Gardens



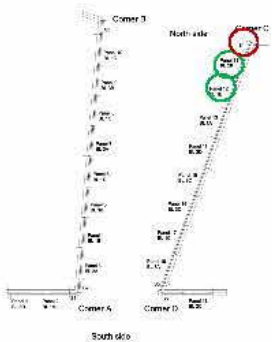
PANEL 10: Reading Prison and The Blade



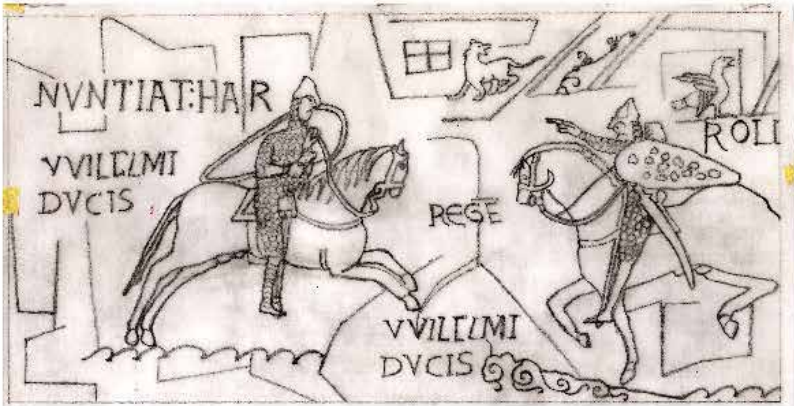
PANEL S3: Girl at Reading Festival



PANEL 11: Old Gas Works, The Thames and Abbey Ruins



PANEL S4: Cart wheel

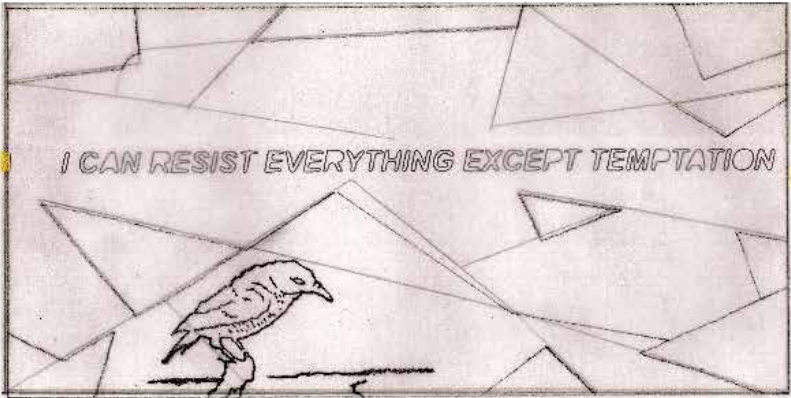


PANEL 12: Extract from The Bayeux Tapestry at Reading Museum

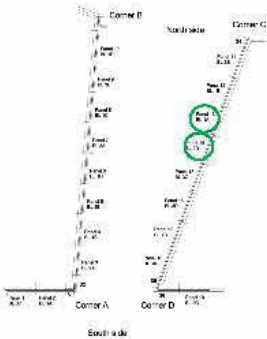
LINK BRIDGE | PETRE NIKOLOSKI



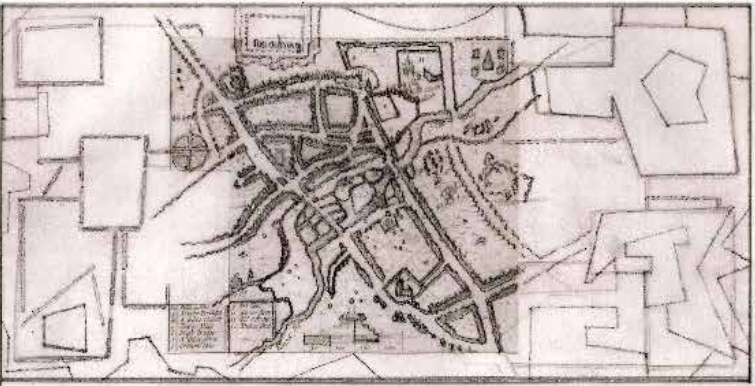
PANEL 13: Reading Streets - inspired by the sculpture of a young girl reaching up, and a swan flying overhead



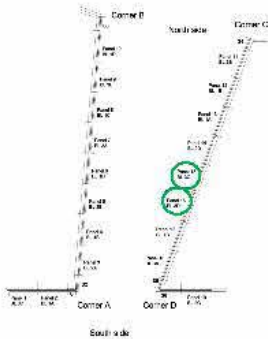
PANEL 14: Oscar Wilde's thoughts



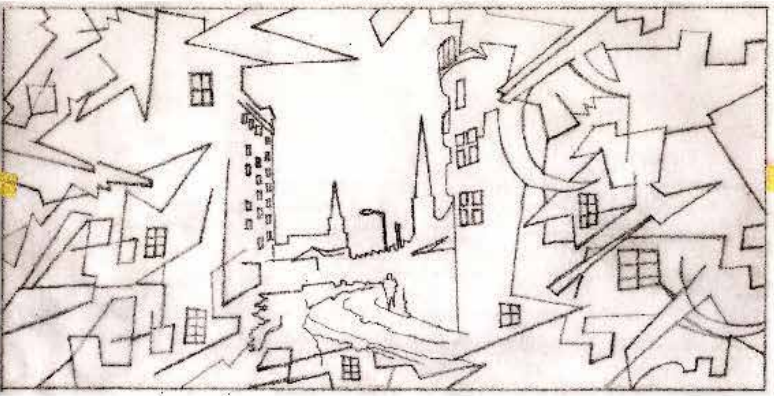
PANEL 15: The Keep, 571 Oxford Street, Reading - part of the Brook Barracks built in 1881



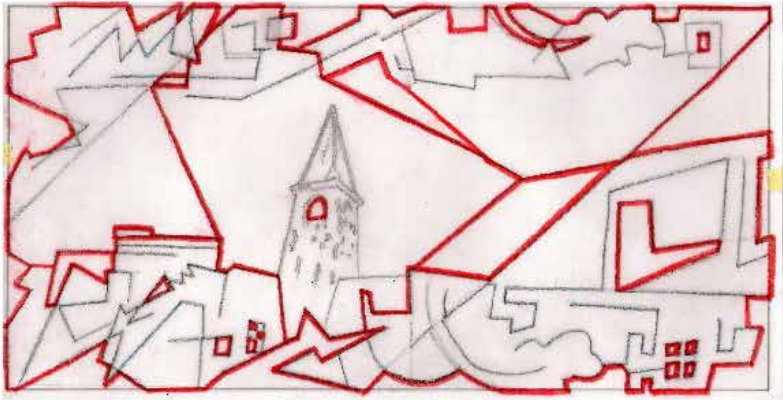
PANEL 16: Map of Reading by John Speed, 1610



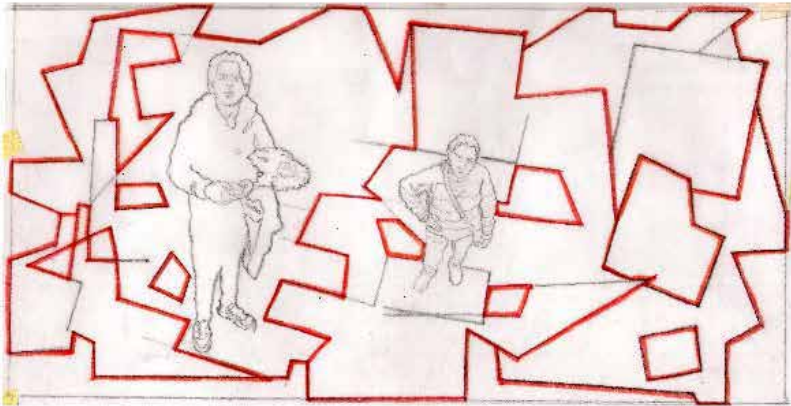
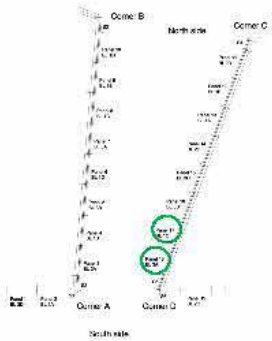
LINK BRIDGE | PETRE NIKOLOSKI



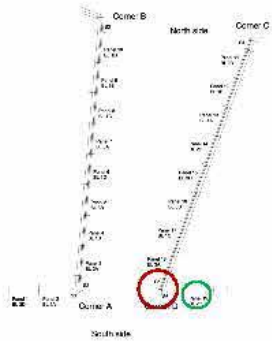
PANEL 17: Inspired by the streets of Reading: Watlington Street, North-South view



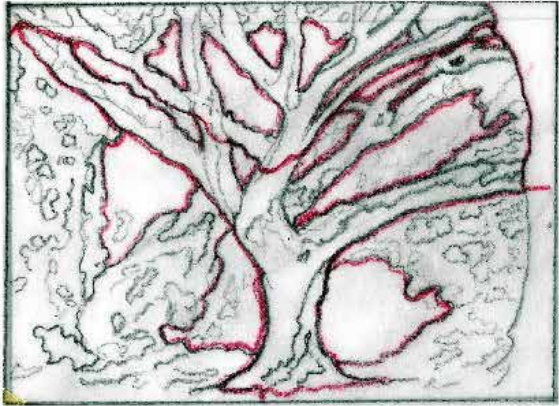
PANEL 18: Inspired by the streets of Reading



PANEL 19: Waiting for the Elizabeth Line at Reading Station

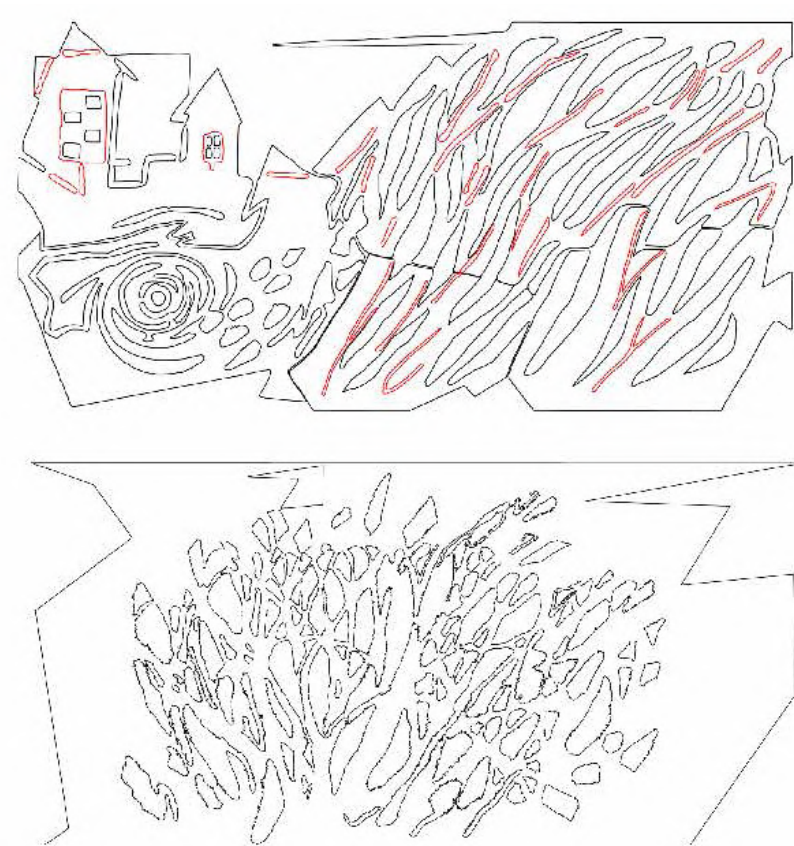


PANEL S5: Rabbit



PANEL S6: Tree

Art Panels Methodology: Laser Cutting and Engraving



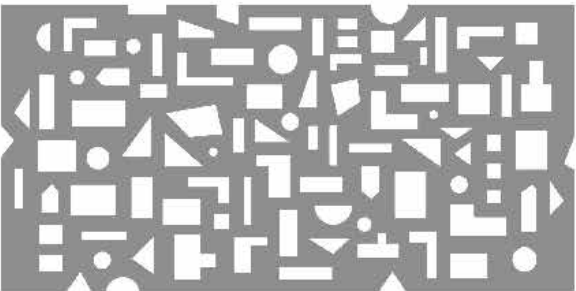
PANELS 1 & 5

BLACK / LASER CUTTING LINE
RED / ENGRAVING LINE

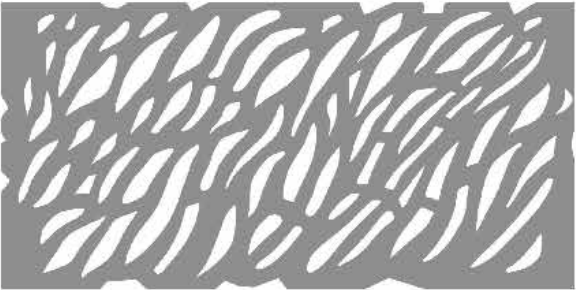
Base Layer Panels

3 DESIGNS

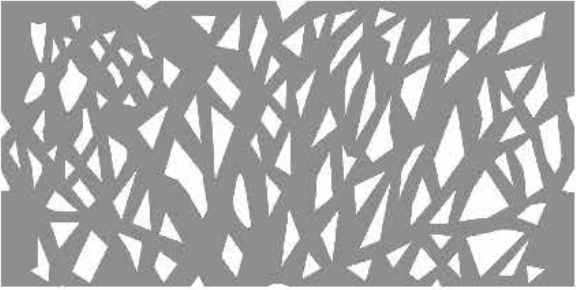
Base Layer 1



Base Layer 2

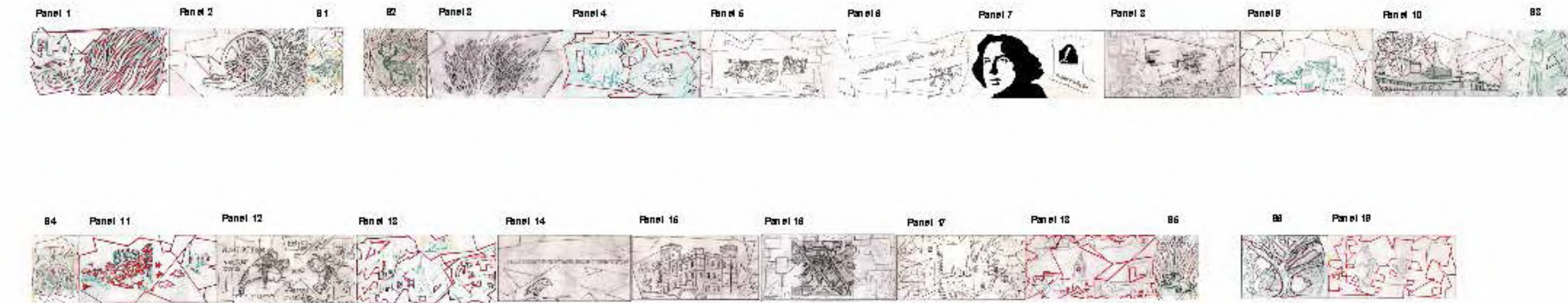
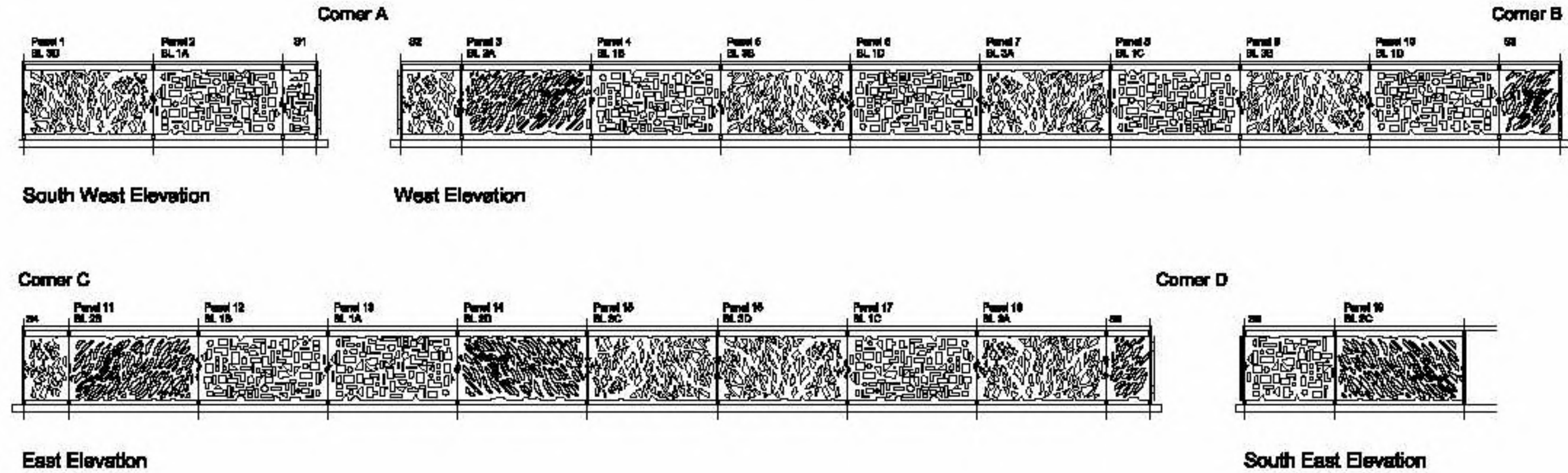


Base Layer 3



LINK BRIDGE | PETRE NIKOLOSKI

Art & Base Panels: Full Overview



LINK BRIDGE | PETRE NIKOLOSKI

The Proposal

Architectural render of the west side of the bridge, showing layout of panels with place-holders. Each panel will be a hand crafted, piece of art work, (shown below) narrating the story of Reading.



South west elevation

West elevation

Corner A



Corner B

East elevation

South East elevation

Corner C

Corner D

