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Sculpture Trail

Kate Thomson and Hironori Katagiri

*Lyrical Abstraction -
The Eloquence of Material*

The Pathfoot Building

HIRONORI KATAGIRI was born in Kesenuma, Japan and studied art at Miyagi University Of Education. He has exhibited internationally and creates many of his works for public commissions. His work can be found in public and private collections all over the world; within the UK they can be seen in Cambridge and at The University of Stirling. During the Mid-80s Katagiri came to Aberdeen to work in the Scottish Sculpture Studio in Aberdeenshire and in 1988 he co-founded the Glasgow Sculpture Studios.

KATE THOMSON is an established Scottish sculptor who has been working internationally for the last 25 years. After graduating in Fine Art from Newcastle University, she worked for 3 years as a community artist in the Gorbals in Glasgow, where in 1989 she was also one of the six Founding Directors of the Glasgow Sculpture Studios, before starting to work on site-specific public sculptures for parks, gardens, and buildings all over the world, from inner city re-developments and prestigious new building projects, to established sites like the British Embassy in Tokyo. Kate's work is abstracted from the human form and landscape, exploring relationships in physical, cultural and social space. Her beautifully crafted marble pieces use form to articulate light and life, and touch on something essential yet unique in all of us.



PATHFOOT BUILDING Japanese Sculpture Garden

1. Streamline – torso 2 & 3, Hironori Katagiri Indian black granite, 2009

The "Streamline" series started with an interest in 1920s -30s streamlined car designs. Streamlining was believed to be the most efficient way for a machine to move through space. This sculpture was inspired by early 20th century modern design movements, including Art Deco and Futurism. Katagiri identified the design essence as a strong symbol of modernity and condensed it into abstract form. He is trying to raise the question of what the modern was, and reassess the philosophy of modernism for today.

2. Movement- Hironori Katagiri Scottish grey granite, 1985

This early piece Katagiri made at Scottish Sculpture workshop around the same time as working on "21st June 1985". "Movement" is a cylindrical version of the internal section of "21st June 1985". Using the "Warimodoshi" technique (splitting and putting back together again) the oval cylinder has been carved to indicate a shifting movement although the split pieces are returned to their original place next to each other as if one stone again.



SCULPTURE COURTYARD 3

3. Hermes & Athena - Kate Thomson Piastra marina marble, 2009

Greek mythology provided the themes and titles for these pieces, connecting them to eternal concerns of the human spirit. The form of the sculptures draws on the same natural sources that influenced classical and neo-classical art and architecture to explore contemporary interpretations of the world we live in and our relationship with our environment.



4. Cone - Hironori Katagiri Scottish grey granite, 1985

"Cone" was first made as a set with "Dark Lady of the Sonnet", which later developed into "Bijin". In this setting the interesting contrast between the carved abstract shape and the preserved natural rough surface becomes the main focus.



5. Nostalgia For Passionate Love – Hironori Katagiri Irish limestone, 2000

These three Irish lime stone pieces are more formal works influenced by European architectural details. By making architectural detail the main structure of the form Katagiri is trying to invest them with independent personalities highlighting the contrast and the relationship between logic and emotion. This series made in 2000 during his residency at Edinburgh College of Art also implies his personal memories of previous visits to Scotland.



Causationist In Love – Long Before The Solitude – Hironori Katagiri Irish limestone, 2000

These pieces were made while Katagiri was an artist in residence at Edinburgh College of Art. Exploring architectural forms on a human scale, they are variations of the "Causationist in Love" series starting in 1988 in Glasgow, which was also developed for large scale site specific pieces in Japan such as, "Mukai-Shiragami" (1998) and "Symphonia" (2004).



6. Causationist In Love – Maze Of Felicity – Hironori Katagiri Irish limestone, 2000

Katagiri has been working with stone, mostly granite, since 1981. His works have a very strong relationship with the material he uses, and his ideas evolve directly from the working process of splitting, carving and polishing, contrasting the natural rough stone with the highly worked areas. Katagiri says "In Japan there is an established contemporary movement of stone sculpture. Contemporary oriental ideas are founded on refined abstract expression as in Japanese Zen gardens.



CAMPUS SCULPTURES

7. Bijin – Hironori Katagiri Diabase Swedish granite

"This sculpture was inspired by a series of Japanese Ukiyoe portraits I saw in an exhibition while working on the "Streamline" series. "Bijin" means beautiful and elegant lady in Japanese and "Moronobu" is the first Japanese Ukiyoe printer, who established the Ukiyoe Hanga style in 18th century Japan. Ukiyoe prints had a huge impact when they were first seen in Europe and gave a very important hint to open up new directions in the evolution of modern art. This piece expresses my romance with the relationship between art and science."



8. Nostalgia – Hironori Katagiri Scottish red granite, 2001

Once a stone is split, the action is irreversible. But if the pieces are fit perfectly back where they used to be, it is as if it is one piece again. This is the main idea of this sculpture. One block of red granite rock was split into over 40 pieces and reconstructed in the original shape, except the inside of the block has been cut and polished into an irregular sphere. This sculpture plays with the physicality and character of the natural stone as a vessel to contain and remember human memories and experiences. It looks as if all is as it used to be, yet there is a certain difference, something formed within.

"Nostalgia" was made while Katagiri was artist in residence at the Scottish Sculpture Workshop in Lumsden as part of the Japan 2001 Festival.



9. 21st June 1985 – Hironori Katagiri Scottish red granite, 1985

"I am trying to blend my ideas into the character of this granite. A square block is brutally cut out, then the inside piece is split into two pieces and both pieces are carved and polished on opposite sides to create the impression they are tilted when replaced in their original position. The composition reminds the viewer that this sculpture was once one piece of stone, but now has transformed facets."

This is the first piece Katagiri made with Aberdeen granite at the Scottish Sculpture Workshop in Lumsden, Aberdeenshire. It was selected for the "Scottish Sculpture Open 4 at the Kildrummy Castle in 1985 and toured to the Crammond Sculpture Park in Edinburgh before being moved to The University of Stirling in 1995 and purchased for the art collection in 2005.



10. Cloud 9 – Kate Thomson Lasa Select marble, 2009

Designed to be a play sculpture bench, the title is aimed at encouraging people to sit and play on the sculpture to dream a little. "Cloud 9" at first glance looks as if it has four sides, yet if you follow the surface you will find it is one continuous face turning round itself 4 times, inviting people to touch and interact with the sculpture and tease their imaginations.



THE COTTRELL BUILDING

11. Awakening Landscape – Revelation, Omnipresence and Eternity Indian black granite

The "Awakening Landscape" series of abstract "window" forms, started in 1983, explores opening the viewer's own internal landscapes of sense and memory from everyday life by creating form and space to contemplate them.

The dramatic contrast of boldly carved outer edges, and highly polished subtly curved internal surfaces express the raw energy of the black granite, yet highlight its fine grain and texture. While the windows frame the space through and around the sculpture they also explore the contrast between the image of ourselves we project into public space and the more subtle complexities of our individual inner space.



12. Awakening Landscape – Eclipse Diabase Swedish black granite

"Eclipse" is a distinct theme within the "Awakening Landscape" series inspired by astronomical phenomena such as a lunar eclipse, or stellar landscapes. This is one of Katagiri's favourite motifs which he constantly revisits as if working on a series of self-portraits throughout his career.



The University Art Collection is open to the public from
9am – 5pm (weekdays) and 11am – 3pm (weekends)