



# Out in the Open

## Public Art in Bathgate

On this walk you will see a selection of 10 public artworks, ranging in age from 1870's to 2012. The walk takes you from the back garden of the Partnership Centre, along paved walkways, very briefly onto unpaved gravelled paths under the rail bridge and then back onto paved walkways, all on level ground, back into the centre of town.

Bathgate's public art has been supported by different organisations such as Sustrans and the local council. The recent regeneration of the town centre area saw the relocation of some artworks from the Steelyard elsewhere into Bathgate, as did the opening of the new railway line connecting Bathgate to Glasgow. New artworks have also been created as part of the largest new housing development to affect the Bathgate area, Wester Inch Village.

*Bathgate walk: 5.63 km. Approx. 1 hr 45 mins (slow to moderate pace)*

### 1. HIGHLAND MARY AND ROBERT BURNS

**Hamilton Patrick McCarty, restored by Graciela Ainsworth Conservators in 2011**

The local Bathgate Conservation Society in partnership with West Lothian Council restored the sculpture as it was badly vandalised while it was on display in Kirkton Park. It was then put into storage for many years. It was finally restored by Edinburgh specialist artists and a re-launched on January 25<sup>th</sup> Burns' Day 2012.

The tour begins in the orchard or back garden of the Partnership Centre on North Bridge Street in Bathgate. Public access is available through the glass doors at the back of the cafe. Return through the glass doors past the cafe and into the public library.

### 2. 1964 MOSAIC Bill Millian

The mosaic consists of approximately 15,000 separate pieces of tesserae - coloured glass squares manufactured in Italy and purchased from a firm called Tuffolo-Jackson.

The original mosaic was one large wall piece which was installed in the largest stair well of 'Lindsay House' which was the name of the building which was demolished to make way for the new partnership centre in Bathgate in 2011.

Now the mosaic is displayed in two separate pieces within the Bathgate library as the height of the new building did not allow for the installation of the artwork in its original form.

At the top of the first half of the artwork, to the left of the reception desk, you see the American Gemini Space Walk which was a universal event in 1964. The earth's two main heavenly bodies, the sun and the moon, can be seen at the same time in space. The rays of the planets are used to link through the other elements of the linear design. These rays lead to a depiction of the building of the Forth Road Bridge which was a national event that also took place in 1964.

At the top of the second half of the artwork, which is best visible from the library check out desk, the rays continue into the grass and silver birch landscape of the Bathgate Academy, built in 1964 and represented by a view of the entrance hall looking to the then office and library complex and corridor which would be familiar to all pupils at the school. This was a significant local event in Bathgate in 1964. The international, national and local events of 1964 are therefore colourfully depicted in this traditional mosaic.

**Thank you for taking part in a public art walk**  
 For more information or to share any comments about your experiences on the walk, contact us:  
 tel: 01506 773871 email: arts@westlothian.gov.uk

### 3. POURED METAL Jeremy Cunningham, 1996

From the roundabout, cross the street to the right, continue walking in front of the Morrison's entrance, bear right and walk across the car park towards the far end where there is an access ramp and a wooden handrail taking you down to the side of a small woodland. Continue walking under a very small railway bridge until you exit at the edge of Whitburn Road, walk across the short road bridge crossing the burn and make an immediate left turn onto the path which crosses back under the railway bridge and takes you to route 75. On the route 75 path you will see a signpost, take the fork that veers towards 'Edinburgh'. Continue on this path for about 15 to 20 minutes, walking past a small woodland and cross over the burn and you will see a small gated industrial building. You will enter into the Wester Inch Village estate. At the first fork in the path, veer right and you will exit onto James Young Road. Turn right when you come to a T junction with Leyland Road and at the traffic lights turn left onto Simpson Ave. Walk up the left hand side of the road and you will arrive at the Hibiscus.

### IN FULL BLOOM Martin Heron, 2012

The artwork is comprised of six individual flowers installed on four sites within the Wester Inch Village. The artist wanted to convey how he saw the aspirations and hopes of local people, who are new to the area, for a blossoming community.

### 4. IN FULL BLOOM: HIBISCUS Martin Heron, 2012

From the Hibiscus, cross the road onto the other side and you will see the Lily.

### 5. IN FULL BLOOM: LILY Martin Heron, 2012

From the Lily, walk back toward the traffic lights and Leyland road and at the junction turn right. Continue for another five minutes until you see the Daisies on your left opposite Simpson Primary School which will be on your right.

### 6. IN FULL BLOOM: DAISIES Martin Heron, 2012

From the Daisies, walk along the pond side of the path away from James Young Road and towards the Tesco direction of the village. Continue along for about eight minutes and you will see the Bathgate Face on your left.

### 7. BATHGATE FACE Lumir Soukup, 1998

In 1998 Lumir Soukup won the landscape competition for the disused site of the British Rover Truck and Car Factory in Bathgate, West Lothian, Scotland. His proposal was to contour the demolished factory rubble into the form of a human face - the proportions of which were to be based on those of the local community. Using a standard survey form, working with local schools and different community groups, over 1215 local faces were measured and combined. The finished rubble sculpture was covered with topsoil and sown with wild-flowers. In 2002 the site was bought by Gallacher Homes; the subsequent re-landscaping and remodelling of the Face was done without the artist's permission. He disowned it prior to his death in 2005.

From the Bathgate Face, continue on the path towards Tesco for two minutes and you will see the Rose.

### 8. IN FULL BLOOM: ROSE Martin Heron, 2012

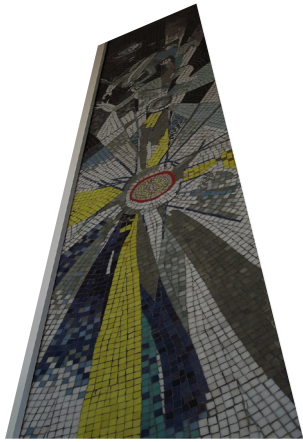
From the Rose, on Leyland Road at the junction with Blackburn roundabout, turn left and keep to the left side of the pavement. Continue towards Edinburgh Road roundabout and continue on that path back into the town centre for about 15 minutes. This road changes names (King St, George Place and then becomes North Bridge Street) but remain on this main road until you see the Steelyard on your right. First you will see the Bathgate Arch.

**9. THE STEELYARD: BATHGATE ARCH**, commemorating the Bathgate Gala Day the Arch is a permanent fixture that is reminiscent of the temporary Arches that are created each year as part of the Procession through the town. The exact proportions of any arch should match those of the Arches at the entrance of the Kaim Park, the colourful symbols should be made from "Dottles", paper flowers made from crepe paper and wire, a process known as Dottling.

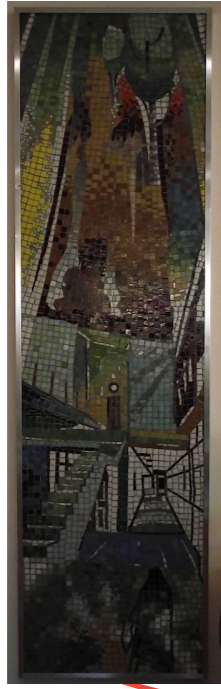
### 10. THE STEELYARD McLagan Fountain

Late 19<sup>th</sup> or very early 20<sup>th</sup>C cast-iron fountain donated to Bathgate by the wife of Peter McLagan, MP for Linlithgowshire (who died in 1900), it no longer functions as a working fountain. Return to the Partnership Centre to take a well earned rest, there is a cafe and public facilities are available.

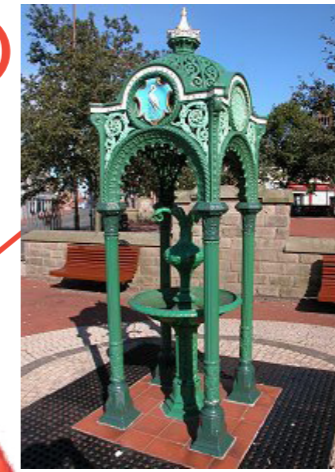
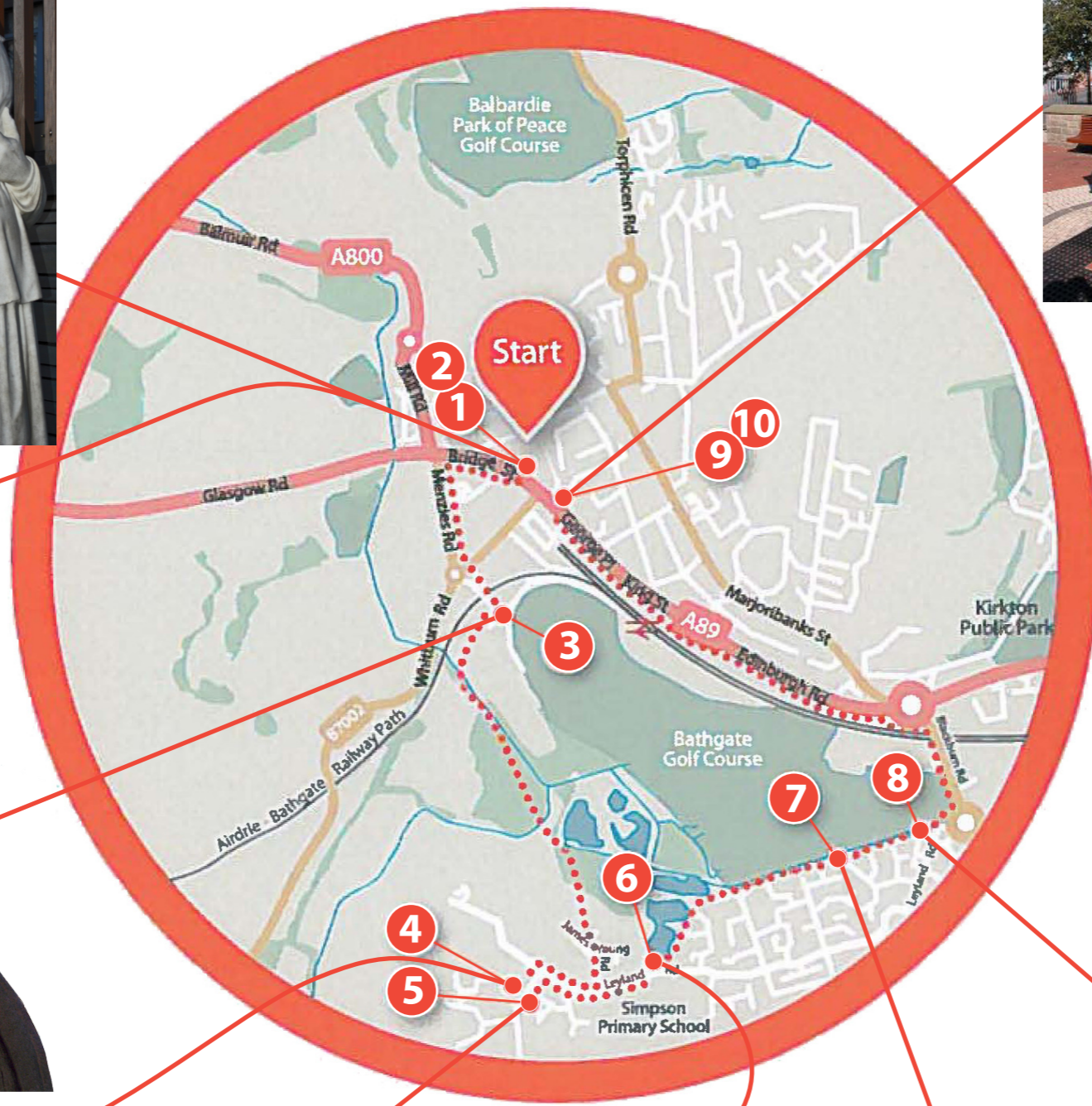




2



1



10



9

# Out in the Open

Public Art in Bathgate

1. Highland Mary and Robert Burns
2. 1964 Mosaic
3. Poured Metal
4. In Full Bloom: Hibiscus
5. In Full Bloom: Lily
6. In Full Bloom: Daisies
7. Bathgate Face
8. In Full Bloom: Rose
9. The Steelyard: Bathgate Arch
10. The Steelyard: McLagan Fountain



3



4



5



6



8



7