

Artworks at Edinburgh Park: Highlights.

A. Ten recently installed large-scale, art works.

Ann Christopher (**Square Line**),
Louise Plant (**Amarylla Guerrilla**),
Sir Eduardo Paolozzi (**Vulcan**),
William Tucker (**Dancer After Degas II**),
Bruce Beasley (**Advocate**),
Anthony Abrahams (**King of Kings: Ozymandias**) [Listen to [Shelley's poem](#) and [meaning.](#)]
Andrew Burton (**The Orangery Urns and Ceramic Parrots**),
Thomas Heatherwick (**Spun Chairs**) - summer exhibit only
Kenneth Armitage's monumental (**Reach for the Stars**) - and
Nicolaus Widerberg's figure sculptures & elongated (**'Giacometti'**).

B. Tapestry. A highly charged **anti-war tapestry** inspired by the painting '[Minerva Protects Pax from Mars' by Rubens](#). Its overall message is that rejecting war and embracing peace brings prosperity and plenty. Produced by Dovecot Studios. A collaboration with the Artistic Estate of expressionist painter [Leon Kossoff](#) has led to this poised and tranquil image. The tapestry hangs and can be viewed in the reception area of 1 New Park Sq.

C. 1 New Park Sq. has won many architectural awards. In the main reception area note the different types of exposed concrete. The judges of the **2023 Concrete Society Award** declared it their outright winner. They particularly admired the striking and yet harmonious contradistinction created using Granulated Blast Furnace Slag juxtaposed against darker Portland Cement Concrete on the soffits. The Architects' Journal Award 2024 (Best Workplace over £20M) was gained for its net zero carbon credentials and for targeting BREEAM "Excellent" and EPC "A" certification.

D. Three older artworks.

Keith McCarter's **Questor** – a reflection of the building behind - its office space occupies a 'U'-shape around a central atrium. Tim Stead's **Epitaph for the Elm** [missing March 2014] and **Thoughts 4 paws**.

E. Twelve Busts of Scottish poets. (See [Background notes](#) on the **12 Poets** and their poetry.)

F. Business Park master planned in the mid-1990s by Richard Meier. This edge-of-town Business Park can at times feel somewhat barren and unfriendly despite the attractive landscaping. On visiting in March 2024 many offices were found to be empty or in need of refurbishment. Meier is a renowned American abstract artist and architect. His work used to be highly thought of. He favoured structures that were crisp, white, and geometric and has designed several iconic buildings including the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art and the Getty Centre in Los Angeles. Many of Meier's ideas build from works of early to mid-20th century architects, especially Le Corbusier. Meier is considered to have produced more using Corbusier's ideas than anyone else, including Le Corbusier himself (!) Allegations that Meier had sexually harassed many women led to resignation from his architectural firm. Following Meier's apology, his former University - Cornell - declined, his intended endowment of a named chair.

G. Edinburgh Park poised for major expansion. A new urban quarter is under construction. With affordable, sustainable homes and forward-looking office buildings, powered by all-electric, fossil-free energy. Meanwhile phase-1 offices dating from the 90s and 00s are undergoing major refurbishment. The overall aim is for over 1,800 new homes combined with a cultural and entertainment destination. Other buildouts in the West of Edinburgh, e.g. the proposed West Town development, will lead to over 15,000 new homes, including yet another new business park of 500,000 sq.m. Major changes indeed. An expansion (in my view) neatly in line with Patrick Geddes' prophesy that Glasgow and Edinburgh will soon coalesce ([Thompson, 2018](#)) into one super conurbation or megalopolis.

Roy Thompson (March 2024)