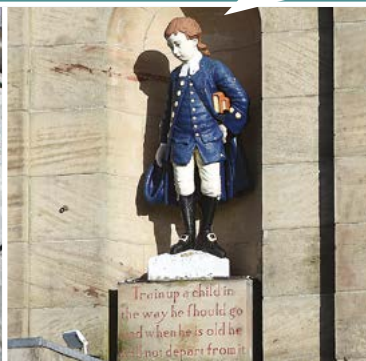


Birmingham's Public Art

Expected
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Jonathan Berg

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In this lavishly illustrated book, Birmingham author, photographer and guide Jonathan Berg explores the remarkable and often underappreciated wealth of public art in Birmingham – from the 1722 equestrian statue of King George I by John van Nost to Gary Jones and Luke Perry's *The Ribbons of 2022*

Birmingham's world-class collection of public art ranges from Victorian memorials and statements of grandeur, to eye-catching and ever-changing graffiti. The finely-crafted traditional bronzes of Birmingham-born sculptor William Bloye sit alongside the Brutalist 1960s concrete panels of William Mitchell. Recent arrivals include works by some of the most important public sculptors of our time, including Dhruva Mistry, Anthony Gormley, Michael Donlin, Lorenzo Quinn, Gillian Wearing and many more.

Over the years, Birmingham's sculptures have inspired affection, ridicule, and inventive humour. Bloye's statue of industrialists Boulton, Watt and Murdoch is known locally as 'The Golden Boys', while Mistry's major artwork in Victoria Square is famously nicknamed 'The Floozie in the Jacuzzi'. In Bordesley, Ondre Nowakowski's *Sleeping Iron Giant* has acquired a blue nose in celebration of Birmingham City football team and is now in urgent need of renovation, while two young boys torched Raymond Mason's *Forward* statue, and with it one of the most important works of this Birmingham born and trained artist was lost forever.

Jonathan Berg's striking photos showcase the art, and the stories behind the art, not only of the city centre but also of surrounding areas such as Digbeth & Deritend, Handsworth, Castle Vale and our University campuses. Themed chapters outline public art development over the years and explore works now lost. This will be a must-have book for those who appreciate Birmingham for the public art epicentre you never realised it was – and will be into the future!

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