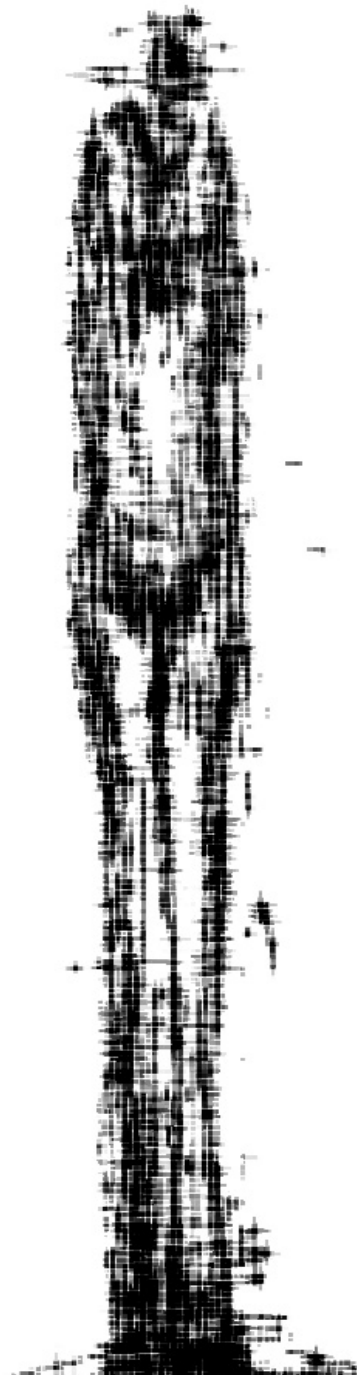


In the Footsteps of Giants

Proposal for a Public Sculpture for the London Olympic Park 2012
Bernard McGuigan, July 2010

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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GIANTS

THREE tall stone figures carved from warm, light coloured limestone, full of fossils and shells, reflecting the historical nature of the beginnings of the Olympic games in ancient Greece.

MONUMENTAL in size, the three pieces will each stand on a mound of grass covered earth, intriguing from a distance and up close communicating the quiet inner focus of an Olympic athlete.

FIGURES symbolic of Gold, Silver and Bronze, representing anyone and everyone who has aspired to or who has achieved these Olympic standards.

Proposal

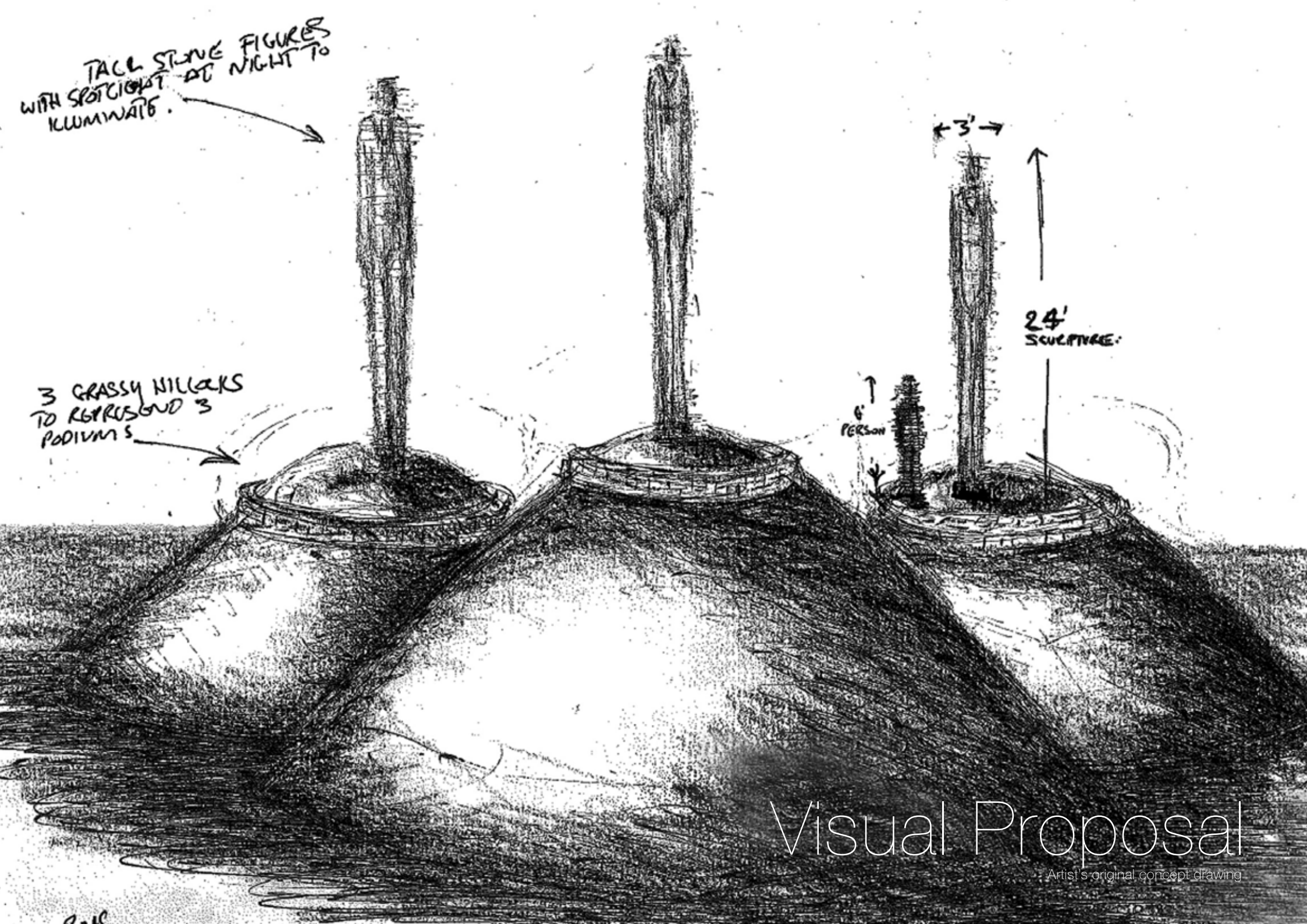
TALL STONE FIGURES
WITH SPOTLIGHT AT NIGHT TO
ILLUMINATE.

3 GRASSY HILLS
TO REPRESENT 3
PODIUMS

6'
PERSON

3'

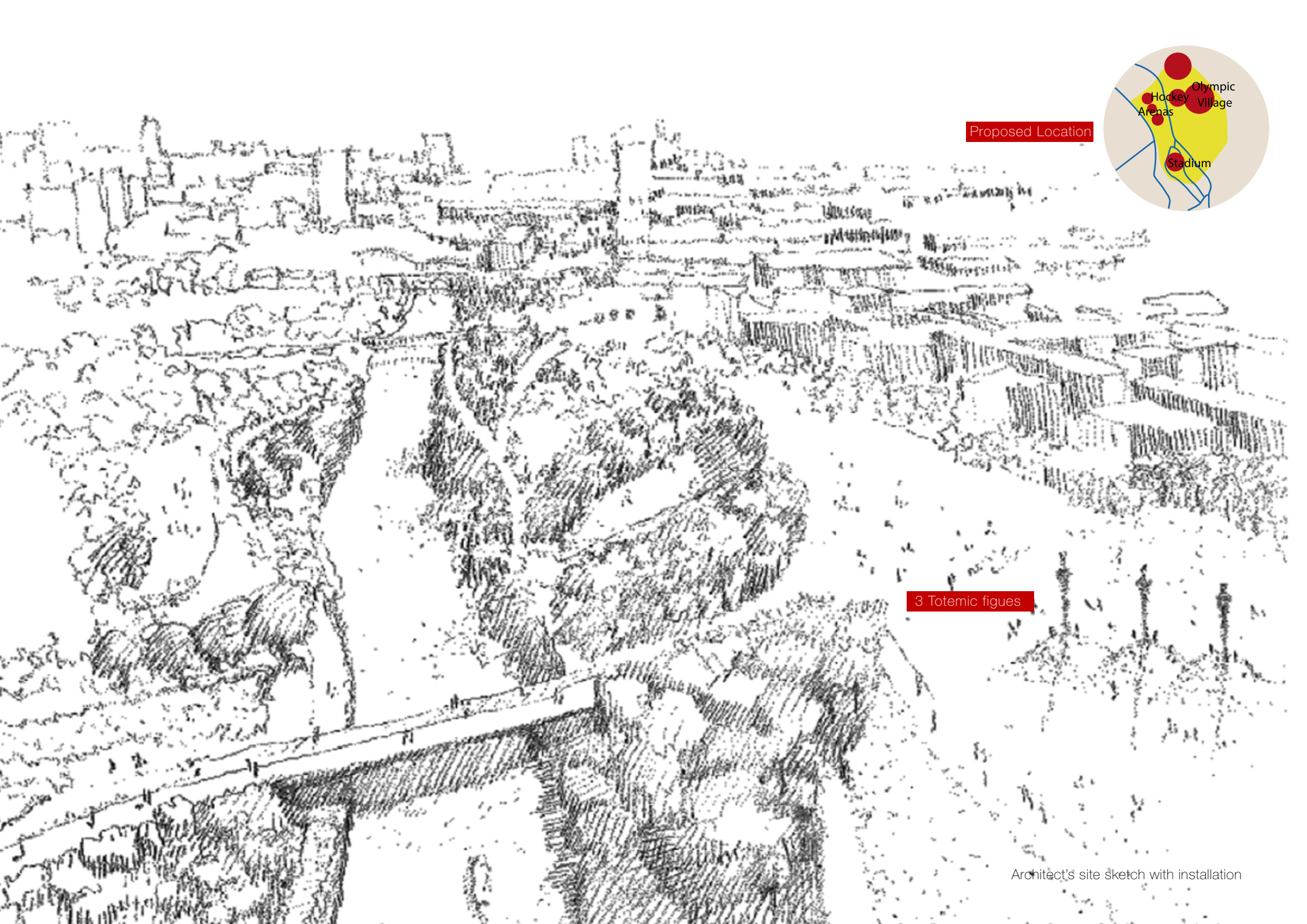
24'
SCULPTURE:



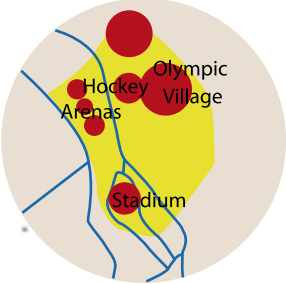
Visual Proposal

Artist's original concept drawing

2-10



Proposed Location



3 Totemic figures

Architect's site sketch with installation



SILVER



GOLD



BRONZE

Visual Proposal

Photographic Representation Close up/Detail



Visual Proposal

Photographic Representation



INSPIRATION

The Olympic movement, from its very beginnings in ancient Greece to the present day, is a history of the inner journey of a human being attempting to attain the very pinnacle of physical discipline, mental endeavour and emotional commitment. These qualities have not changed through the passage of time. Materials, buildings, trainers and sponsors may have changed but the human spirit remains constant, and I wanted this piece to celebrate these qualities.

Inspiration

The Temple at Hera built circa 600 BC on the ancient Olympic site of Olympia in Greece which has only three remaining columns.



Statement History

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

The maquettes representing the pieces are graceful and deceptively simple in terms of their carving style and tranquil potency. We delight in the perceived tension between stone as a reliable and, in relation to our own lives, timeless material, and what we know of the yielding (and less reliable) contours of the human body. With time this sensation may be remembered like a line from a requiem, quietly insistent.

HISTORY

Having worked from a studio in Hackney Wick for nearly 20 years as a sculptor; this proposal is a response to the recent and ongoing changes to the area, relating to the Olympic Park which borders my studio. As a result I felt that many things are profoundly changing and this installation is something that could remain.

Being a self taught sculptor, brought up on the fringes of the east end of London, I appreciate and partially understand the focus, determination, commitment and will power needed on such a life affirming challenge as competing in the Olympics. I felt this was the time and place to celebrate this and offer something back to the wider community in which I work.



Town centre stone marker
Stow on the Wold



Stones at Stonehenge



Stone of Free Speech
Hampstead Heath

Sited on the Olympic Park, in one of the many landscaped areas, the sculptures form an intriguing piece of public art work which engage adults and children and could form a gateway for visitors to the park.

Monuments have long been used as symbolic markers. People gather at them in town squares, they assemble to remember and to honour, to show their link with the past and their hopes for the future. They are used by people as symbolic of something less ephemeral than themselves. They are invested with meaning borrowed from today to be lent to future generations. You see people of all ages meeting and greeting, sitting and talking under these central markers of history.

In homage to the way stones have been used to mark boundaries and sites of importance, this could be a piece of iconic public art which lasts beyond the period of the games and engages the imagination with the nature of endeavour. Who are these giants, why are they there and could we too take the journey to walk in their footsteps?

The installation also offers a place for families and friends to picnic on a summers day, play on the slopes and be photographed alongside. They form a part of the historic fabric of the area and its events adding another dimension to how school pupils and other visitors engage with the site.

Social and Community

STONE FIGURE DETAILS

Approximately 24' high by 3' x 3'

Approximately 25 tons each

Carved from 4/5 blocks of Limestone

Illuminated at night

EARTH MOUND DETAILS

Approximately 15', 12' and 10' high respectively

Constructed from site waste and reused earthworks

PROGRAMME

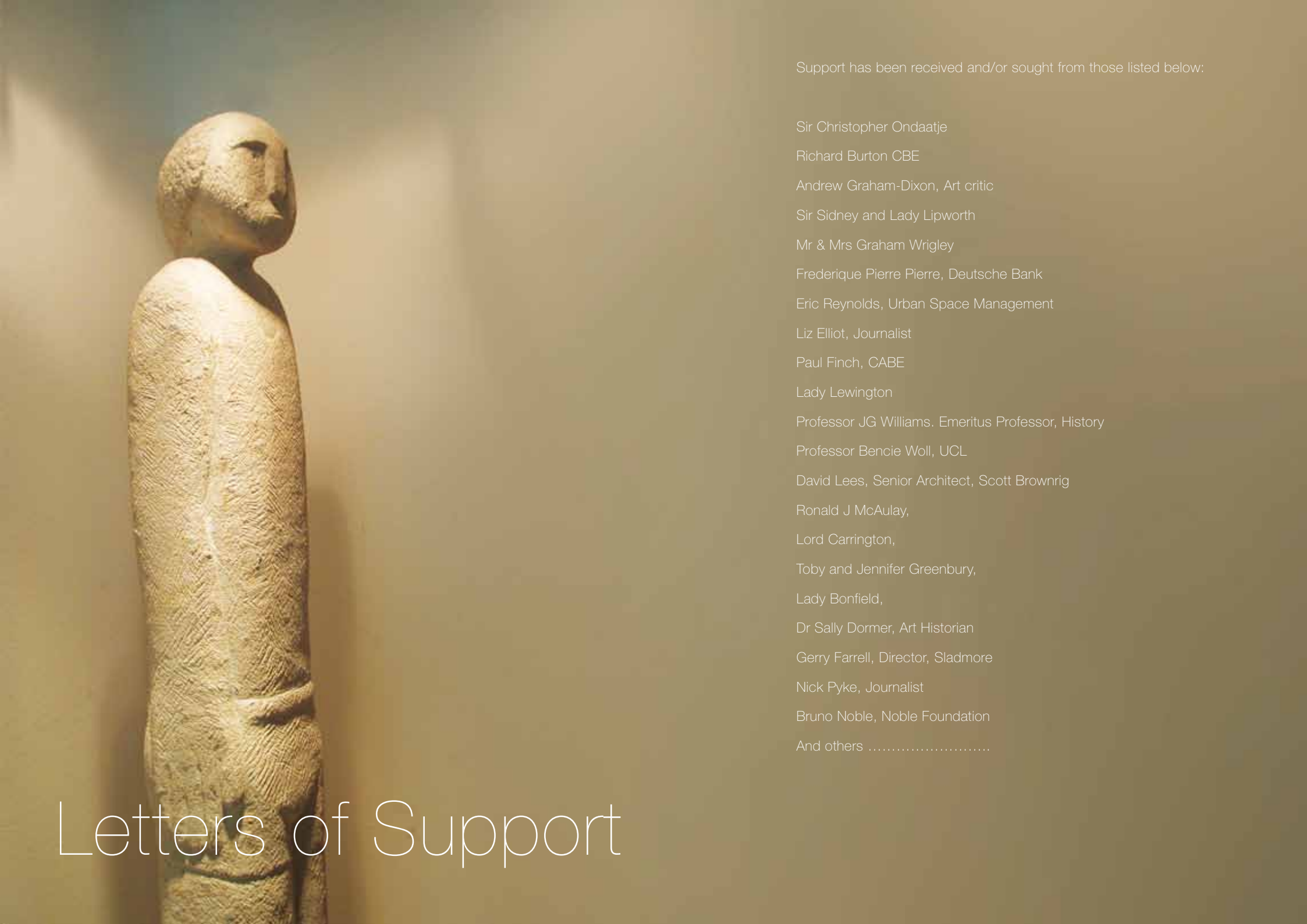
Stone sculptures will require 18 months from production to site installation

Earth mounds to be constructed to coincide with sculpture programme above

Technical Details Installation Programme

Materials – Limestone	
Production – Carving	
Transport/Assembly on Site	
Costs for all of the above	£ 850,000
Structural Engineers fee	
Landscape design fees and landscaping	
Costs for above	£ 425,000
Contingencies	£ 25,000
Total	£ 1,300.000

Estimated Outline of Costs



Support has been received and/or sought from those listed below:

Sir Christopher Ondaatje

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Andrew Graham-Dixon, Art critic

Sir Sidney and Lady Lipworth

Mr & Mrs Graham Wrigley

Frederique Pierre Pierre, Deutsche Bank

Eric Reynolds, Urban Space Management

Liz Elliot, Journalist

Paul Finch, CBE

Lady Lewington

Professor JG Williams, Emeritus Professor, History

Professor Bencie Woll, UCL

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Lady Bonfield,

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Gerry Farrell, Director, Sladmore

Nick Pyke, Journalist

Bruno Noble, Noble Foundation

And others

Letters of Support



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