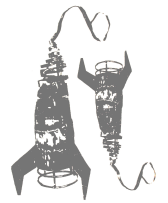


Welded Rockets

Lauren Fox / Sculptor



Background

Cressida the Tidal Octopus was made specially for ArtWalk Porty 2015, a new art festival in Portobello. The steel sculpture was installed temporarily on a light standard for the 4 day festival in September 2015. However, because the public took to her with such enthusiasm, the steel octopus was left in place for the remainder of the year. Meanwhile I found out that Edinburgh Council could not find the funds to take on the octopus as a council-owned public artwork.

In January 2016, after 4 months, the light standard post that the Octopus was attached to was brought down in a storm. The sculpture was partially damaged in the fall, but was rescued by Porty residents and taken away for safe-keeping. In the meantime the light standard has been replaced by the council. Since then the octopus has been sorely missed and there have been various calls for her return – especially from the children.

Comments include:

“Come home soon”

“Such a wonderful sculpture, thank you for bringing an extra joy to daily dog walks . Look forward to seeing her again soon!”

“Looking forward to her return. Congrats on a quality, popular piece.”

(taken from comments on the Porty's Tidal Octopus facebook page and private facebook messages)

Proposal

The loss of the giant octopus at the sea's edge has been felt by beach-walkers of all ages and there has been keen interest in the octopus being re-instated as a permanent feature of Portobello's seascape. As it was the community that missed it as a public artwork, it seems a natural next step to consider making the Tidal Octopus a community-owned artwork. With the backing of Porty Community Council this could happen.

The octopus needs significant repair from corrosion and the fall. It needs to be stripped back to the bare metal to be treated with a marine anti-fouling system which provides a durable finish for up to 5 years.

As the light standard to which the octopus was attached was brought down in the storm in January, it would be advisable to test it, and perhaps reinforce it as a permanent base for the octopus to be attached to. Edinburgh Council may consider supporting this part of the project, as well as overseeing the permanent installation of the work.

Once the octopus has been re-installed, a name plaque for the artwork might also be added to name the work and the supporters of it.

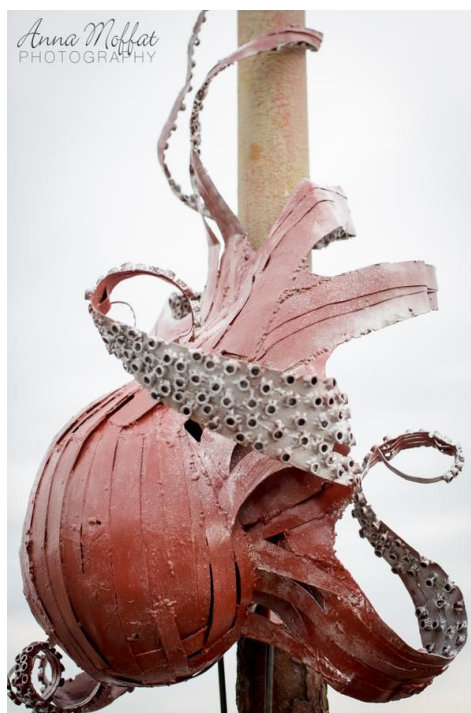
The total cost for the work, including a very nominal artist fee for the project, is £2800 (please see attached budget for cost breakdown). If this is beyond the financial capacity of the community council, I would suggest we pursue a crowd-funding campaign to ask for contributions towards the costs from the community.

Repair and re-installation of the octopus would commence once the total funding was in



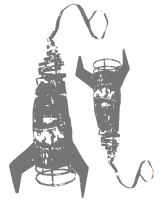
place. After it's re-installation, the octopus would be insured and maintained by the Community Council.

Lauren Fox
February 2016



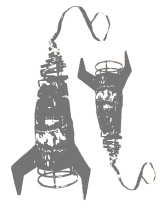
Welded Rockets

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Welded Rockets

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Proposal: The Return of Porty's Tidal Octopus

Provisional Budget

Repair of storm damage to the octopus

Materials & Labour £850

Re-coating of work with anti-fouling system and aluminium oxide paint

Materials £240

Labour £360

Re-installation of work in situ

Materials & Labour £350

Reinforcement of light standard at end of bath street groyne

Consultation £150

Materials & Labour – unknown but
estimated at £650 £650

Name plaque for artwork

Materials / Labour / Installation £200

TOTAL: £2800