



# Greta Berlin's gift to Bridport

In Spring 2022 local artist Greta Berlin very generously gifted ten of her life-size sculptures to Bridport Town Council. Eight of the sculptures are displayed around Riverside Gardens.



In welcoming the gift of artworks to Bridport, Mayor Ian Bark commented: "We are honoured to receive such an important body of work from Greta. Having her artworks displayed together in the open air will be a source of interest and at times a challenge for many years to come".

The gift of artworks to Bridport recognises and celebrates the town's long association with and support of the arts. The Arts Development Company kindly helped curate the artworks around Riverside Gardens.

Greta said of her gift:

“With the arts in education being eroded and funding vanishingly rare we are in danger of becoming a culturally barren country, I wanted, in some small way to redress the balance. Bridport has a wide reputation as a community for the arts, and a town council sympathetic to our cultural life, while looking for a permanent home for my collection where a wider audience would be found,



I was delighted that Bridport Town Council embraced the idea so enthusiastically. They put aside a green area and a sensitive team to install the sculptures. The collection is beautifully curated by Cleo Evans of the Arts Development Company.”

# Riverside Gardens, Bridport

Eight of Greta Berlin's gifted sculptures are displayed around Riverside Gardens on the eastern side of town for the public to enjoy.

Additionally 'Skateboarder' is situated at Plottingham Field and 'Mother & Child' at Bridport Town Hall.



Details about each sculpture are on the following page.

## 1 **Lost Identity**

This is a reflection on the horrors that so many people find themselves in today, fleeing from war and famine, through unimaginable dangers, to seek sanctuary on distant shores, where they often find, they are not welcomed. They have lost everything.

## 2 **Man Child**

On seeing an old man weeping at the war grave of his very young soldier father. That young man who would never grow old, the old man carrying within him an unresolved child. The destructive waves of war continue through the generations.

## 3 **In The End Is My Beginning (Pod)**

Early pieces on this theme were of old, worn hands holding a tiny curled child. In 'Pod' the idea is abstracted out. It is about renewal.

## 4 **Rock Woman**

A woman overcoming repression, misogyny. her thin neck highlighting the huge weight she is carrying. The infant is about hope, new beginnings.

## 5 **Ox Woman**

On seeing a woman in Africa carrying an enormous ox's head, probably to feed her family, I began to think about body image in the West, of slimming to meet the perceived perception of beauty while I was looking at evidence of near starvation.

## 6 **Wise One (Wolf Woman)**

The dog in some cultures is considered a symbol of wisdom.

## 7 **Woman**

Asked by a Bridport woman to make a piece about the altered body image and to promote acceptance.

## 8 **Fish Boy**

Watching a group of Aboriginal boys spear fishing in a Outback river. When they walked away in line, the last and smallest boy, carried his huge fish on his head. In Japanese culture the Carp is seen a symbol of longevity.

## 9 **Skateboarder (at Plottingham)**

Pure youthful energy.

## 10 **Mother & Child (in the Town Hall)**

Motherhood has been a continuous theme throughout Greta's career, from tiny images just inches in sizes to this piece, her tallest. She wanted to develop ideas about Motherhood in a very large piece. A new technique challenged Greta to express tenderness for the child in this most brutal of materials.

# About Greta Berlin

Greta grew up in St Ives, Cornwall, during the 1940-50s, heavily influenced by the craftsmen and women, artists and fishermen whose everyday activities she closely observed. Greta is a self-proclaimed 'observer', learning about the world and people through 'osmosis'. Her career began as a potter and teacher in ceramics, but over the years she became more interested in sculptural forms in clay.

In the early 80s Greta met the Cornish sculptor Max Barrett and together they would drive to quarries and collect truckloads of stone and, with his guidance, she worked in stone. On landing a commercial commission Greta had to learn to weld, which opened up a whole new world in terms of scale to her sculpture, and steel has been her main focus ever since.

[gretaberlinsculpture.com](http://gretaberlinsculpture.com)

## Bridport Sculpture Trail

You can enjoy further sculptures displayed around town, including more of Greta Berlin's, as part of the annually changing Bridport Sculpture Trail.

[Click here for details](#) or pick up a leaflet in

Bridport Tourist Information Centre.

