

Cliff Gorman and Paul Cooper



Nursery



'Harmonic Column' 1984 was exhibited at Liverpool Garden Festival Paul Cooper



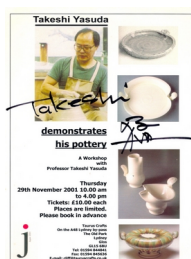
'Soft Planter' 1991 used in 'Gardens by Design' T.V. programme Cliff Gorman



'Heavy Metal Garden' 2001 Residency Installation Paul Cooper



'Power of the People Power Station' 2003 Environmental Residency Action Tom Cousins



'Takeshi Yasuda demonstrates his pottery' workshop 2001 during 'Japan 2001' cultural festival



'Helen Schell drop-in workshop' 2004 in conjunction with Sir Antony Gormley's 'Field' installation in Gloucester Cathedral



'Jerry Ortmans' Rocky Path' 2002 Installation during Residency

Cliff Gorman

In early career, studied and taught Physics and Chemistry. Environmental concerns helped influence a change of direction (science to the soil).

1979 became grower of plants – as M.D. became one of largest growers of container-grown hardy nursery stock in U.K.

In 1983 met Paul Cooper following his request for advice on the use of plants for his Quincunx sculptural series. Inspired by Paul, become interested in arts, sculpture etc – especially use of plants in contemporary sculpture. Close collaboration ensues.

Creation of the first (not present) Avant Gardens Ltd – desire to bring art, in contemporary way, back into the traditional garden scene/industry (see example illustrations). Pioneer in this respect. Challenging & provocative. Learning of German artist Joseph Beuys's focus on environmental/social issues, and in particular, his monumental work "7,000 oaks", became intensely involved with study of the art and ideas of Beuys.

Regular visitor to Germany to become as familiarised as much as possible with his works (and other German art movements - Die Brücke, der blaue Reiter, expressionism, Bauhaus etc) throughout the country (helped by wife – fluent German speaker/translator). Frequent visitor to Beuys Archive and The Museum Schloss Moyland Foundation which possesses nearly 6,000 works by Joseph Beuys, the largest collection of his art worldwide, located near Kleve, Germany, and Beuys' childhood home.

Established a three-year "Artist in Residency" programme devoted to "Living Art" involving 14 artists and leading to a permanent collection of "Living Art" at Taurus Crafts, a visitor centre in the Royal Forest of Dean which attracts well over 100,000 visitors per year (see example illustrations). Curated an exhibition of the same name and authored and produced an Arts Council funded illustrated 50 page booklet to accompany the exhibition.

As Exhibition and Events Coordinator arranged art exhibitions and workshops at approximately six-weekly intervals for three years.

Developed a programme of cultural events linking scientific, environmental, artistic and spiritual topics. Guest speakers included Michael Archer, now Professor of Art, Goldsmiths, with a talk on Ian Hamilton Findlay and Dr Lee Beard (Project director of the Ben Nicholson catalogue raisonné) "Ben Nicholson: Reflections on a Painting".

In 2012 arranged and organised for Rainer Rappmann, founder of the Free International University Press, and a personal friend of Beuys, to give a series of talks in England on Beuys. Talks took place at University of Wales Institute (coinciding with the "Artists Rooms: Joseph Beuys" exhibition at National Museum, Cardiff); School of Art, Oxford Brookes University; and Stroud Valleys Artspace.

Assisted Project Manager with sourcing ownership of photographs used in recent production of a Phaidon monograph on Beuys and gave advice on the quality of the colour images during the final production phase.

Assisted in production of English promotional material for three day Symposium of 'Joseph Beuys and the Hare' held at Humboldt-Haus, Lake Constance, Germany. Co-lectured with Dr Victoria Walters (author of "Joseph Beuys and the Celtic Wor(l)d") on aspects of Beuys' works at University of the West of England and given talks (multimedia presentations) at many venues in South West England on aspects of Beuys' works.



Cliff Gorman "Model Settlement"
How do different cultures learn to live in harmony?



Cliff Gorman "Re-jigged Scene"
A not-what-it-seems jigsaw.
Effects of climate change

2016 Co-curated together with Paul Cooper exhibition 'Toying with Art' at Rolle College, Exmouth. As well as many 'toys' created by Paul Cooper, twelve other artists exhibited 'toys' each having the appearance of traditional toys and innocently playable by children, but all designed to highlight some form of social concern, for example, sexual discrimination, depression, space junk, ostracisation of eunuchs, intersex or transgender people in India, sex without consent, extremism, cultural division, climate change, species reduction, security and data abuse, illegal trafficking, family abuse, etc. Paul Cooper created his first puppet theatre for 'Toying with Art'. Project organiser for 'Blue Glider' action to draw attention to a scheme to facilitate the local community to purchase the disused Art College for use as a local Art and Cultural Centre.



Rekha Sameer "Heejra"
Ostracism and persecution for sexual difference in India



Katarazyna Koch "Secret Guardian",
"Truth Keeper", "Lie Protector"



Helen Schell
"Lunar Habitat"
Space junk



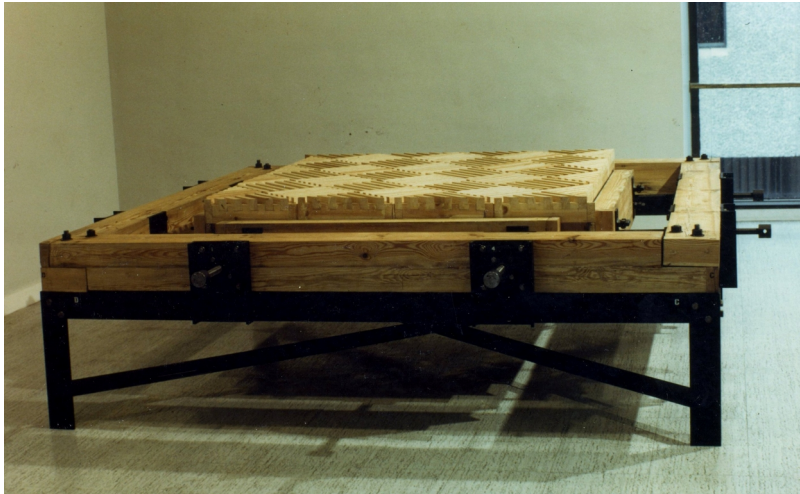
'Blue Glider' action and "Teddy Bear Man" meet the families



Invitation for "and football created this" exhibition

2017 Project organiser for Paul Cooper's 'and football created this' at Beecroft Gallery Southend-on-Sea – an exhibition drawing attention to the wide-ranging influences of football in the U.K. and its social history.

2021 "Joseph the Giant and the 7000 trees"



"Table Sculpture" Private collection, Baltimore U.S.A.

Paul Cooper

1968-72 Studied at Dept of Fine Art, University Of Newcastle-upon-Tyne
1972-74 Teaching Fellowship at the above
1974-88 Lecturer in Art and Design at the University of Lancaster and practicing sculptor

Participated in major exhibitions both in Britain and the USA, culminating in a visiting professorship at The Maryland Institute of Art 1981



'Two circles in a Stone Bridge'
Tout Quarry Portland



'Coast Defence' illustrated in
Decker gallery, Baltimore and at
the Museum of Art Albuquerque.



'Greening of Industry' Awarded best garden at Chelsea Flower Show



'Just what is it'
Hampton Court Flower Show



'Sensory Garden' Newbus Grange
Darlington

In 1983 was awarded an Arts Council Bursary for environmental work 'Two circles in a Stone Bridge' at Tout Quarry, Portland, UK.

Selected exhibitions

1977 Peterloo Gallery, Manchester (one-man)

1978 Peter Stuyvesant 'Northern Painters and Sculptors' Sunderland Art Gallery (group)

1978 Contemporary British Sculpture, Durham DLI Museum (group)

1978 Open Air Sculpture, Tatton Park, Cheshire (group)

1981 Five Young British Sculptors USA (British Council)

Decker Gallery, Baltimore; Museum of Art, Oklahoma; United Artists Gallery, Albuquerque; Laumier Sculpture Park, St Louis, Missouri.

1982 Sculpture for a Garden, Tatton Park, Cheshire and Gunnersbury Park London

1983 Sculpture for a Country Park, Margam, South Wales

1983 Portland Clifftop Sculpture Project (Bursary)

1984 Exposed To the Elements, Ambleside, Cumbria (group)

1985 Sculpture for a Garden, Peto Garden, Oxford.

"Since turning to garden design in 1985 Cooper has won RHS, bronze, silver and gold medals. In 1992 his 'Greening of Industry' garden won the Sword of Excellence for the best garden. Paul Cooper's controversial 'Cool and Sexy' garden at Chelsea in 1994 established him as one of the most thought provoking of contemporary designers in Britain. His subsequent domestic gardens have attracted attention for their use of unconventional materials and theatrical effects.

Unusual commissions have included an 'Instant Garden' for the BBC series 'Gardens By Design, a garden made out of car parts for the Ford Motor Company and a 'Radio Garden' for BBC 'Radio Four'. In 2001 he designed a garden for the BBC 2 series 'Small Town Gardens'. His media credits include broadsheet supplements and even the Harpers and Queen 'A' list of garden designers! He has published five books including 'The New Tech Garden' 'Living Sculpture', 'Interiorscapes' and 'Gardens Without Boundaries', all published by Mitchell Beazley.

In 'Avant Gardeners' by Tim Richardson publ. by Thames Hudson, he is recognized as one of the front runners in the emergence of conceptualist garden design. Cooper's recent book 'Conceptualist Design' (Packard Publishing) reinforces this view." Michael Packard



'Multi-Media Garden' Golders Green
The garden as outdoor theatre



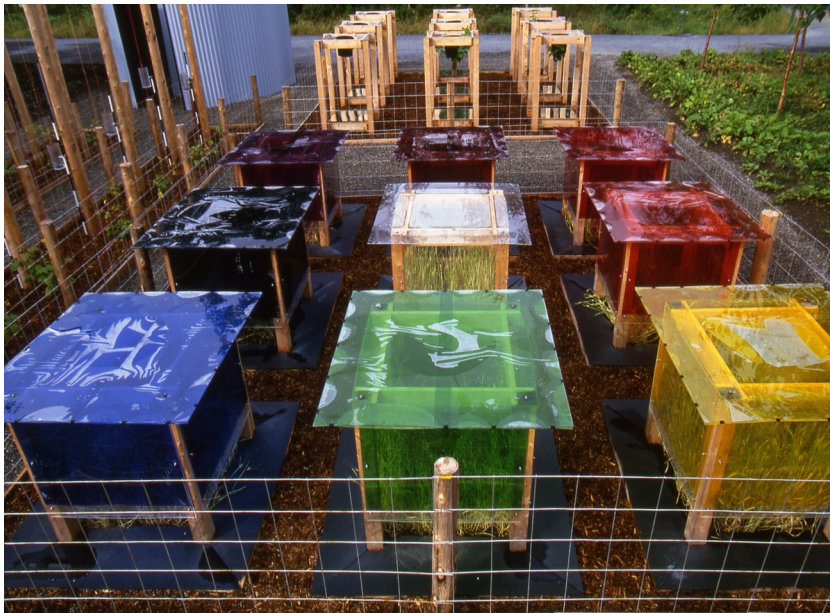
'Night Garden' London used in
'Architektur & Wohnen's article on Paul Cooper



'Experimental Garden' at International
Garden Festival, Metis, Canada



'Instant Garden' televised for
BBC 'Gardens by Design'
New materials; new
technology



'Experimental Garden' explores mans' compulsion to investigate and
manipulate nature for its own exploitative ends.



Widening the interest in gardens to a
more youthful audience. Article in 'The
Face' (Cool & Sexy Garden).



Deliberate provocation. Ridiculing
the elitism displayed at Chelsea
Flower Show.

Selection of Paul Cooper gardens

'Recreation Garden' for Hodgkinson
Psychiatric Centre, Lincoln Hospital. 1991
'Instant Garden' for BBC Television Series
'Gardens By Design' 1991
Re-design of the Dutch Garden at
Parnham House, Dorset for John and
Jennie Makepeace. 1994.

'Cool and Sexy garden' for Chelsea
Flower Show 1994.

'Multi- Media Garden', private client,
London. 1995, revised in 2002.

'Night Garden', private client, North
London.

Designed garden for BBC TV series 'Small
Town Gardens', broadcast May 11 2001
Selected as UK representative to design
garden for the International Garden
Festival at Grand Metis, Quebec, Canada,
2002.

'Interactive Garden', Lancashire Health
Authority, home for young adults with
autism

Selection of reviews:

'A plot to brighten the future', Rosie Atkins,
The Times 1992.

'Pathway to the Future': Stephen Lacey,
Telegraph 1994.

'How Avant-Garde can a garden get?'
Helen Chappell, Independent on Sunday,
1994.

'Sexy and Cool': Architektur & Wohnen,
Sept. 1999.

Garden featured in ELLE Decoration, Aug
2001

'Paesaggi d'autore': Paul Cooper,
'VilleGiardini' Sept 2003.

'Licht – Blüten' Architektur & Wohnen, Feb
2004.

Selection of gardens in publications

'The Modern Garden Makers' by Sally
Court (Ward Lock); 'The New London
Garden' by George Carter (Mitchell
Beazley). 'Chelsea, the greatest show on
earth' by Leslie Geddes-Brown (Dorling
Kindersley); 'The Garden Book' (Phaidon);
'Radical Gardens' by Jane Amidon
(Thames & Hudson); 'Jardins
d'aujourd'hui en Europe' by Penelope Hill
(Fonds-Mercator); 'Jardins Secrets de
Londres', by Caroline Clifton-Mogg
(Flammarion); 'Avant Gardeners' by Tim
Richardson, Thames & Hudson
TV/Media

Created garden for, and participated in
BBC TV series 'Gardens by Design' 1991,
and BBC series 'Small Town Gardens'
2001. Gardens also featured in BBC's
'Curious Gardeners' 2001 and 2002.

Educational

Visiting lecturer in design at: Central St.
Martin's College, London; Inchbold School
of Design, London; Writtle College, Essex.
Visiting lecturer, Cornell University, USA,
April 2004 and 2006



'Blue Glider' ready to fly to the most unlikely of places. How and why?



Local press begin to ask questions but what are the answers?



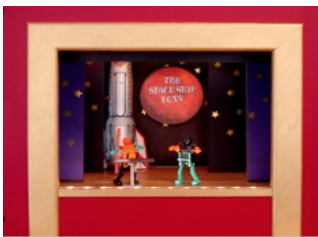
'Cargo boats' Unexpected & disturbing contents



'Miss Willendorf' Fashionably driven to perfection



'Marshalling Yard (Berkenbau)'



'The Space Ship Boys' in 'Wind-up' variety show



Scene from production of 'Starkers'



Coloured thumbnail



Beuys' 7000 oaks Kassel

Books

- 2001 'Living Sculpture'
- 2003 'Gardens without Boundaries'
- 2003 'Interiorscapes'
- 2007 'New Tech Garden'
- 2014 'Conceptualist Landscapes'

Art as social & political commentary

2015 Paul Cooper's desire to create, thought-provoking, pop-up, public art with a political and social conscience materialised in the form of 'der blaue Glider'. This initially involved distributing a number of toy gliders, secretly and anonymously, around the Welsh borders and further afield. Painted bright blue and constructed from disused pallet wood they carried the definition: "To Glide: To travel freely without resistance," a reference to the pressures put on 'freedom of movement' by state reaction to the migrant crisis. The original toy planes were succeeded by more appropriate lightweight flying versions which, in kit form, were distributed by post to the main religious leaders. 2016 'Toying with Art' – an evolution of 'der blaue Glider' which uses the visual language of children's toys; exploiting their association with innocence and the un-tarnished imagination to provide an ironic and pertinent context for issues concerning contemporary 'adult' society.

Like 'Pop Art' the 'toys' exploit nostalgia and popular culture. They are 'child-like' but not 'childish' and perhaps remind us of our own childhood. It is possible that the exploitation of 'toy memories' is what makes 'toying with art' disturbing and thought-provoking.

Created two plays and first toy theatre among numerous other 'toys' for this exhibition.

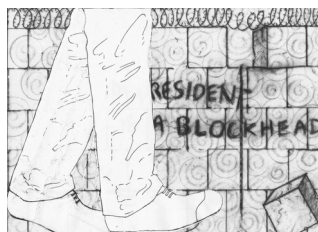
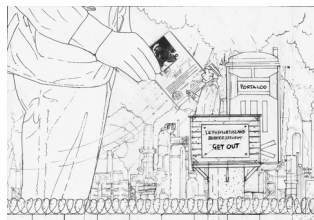
2020 During lockdown created a more adult-themed puppet show 'Starkers'. The cast includes characters such as Lord and Lady Rubens, the Titians, Ms Renoir and Mr Poussin.

Commence planning larger puppet theatre and bespoke play 'Joseph the Giant and the 7000 trees' to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Joseph Beuys and the international imperative to plant more trees. Although Joseph Beuys died 35 years ago his life and work encompasses pretty much all the questions that have become the headaches of the world in the 21st century: the limits of capitalism, the limits of democracy, the limits of the climate, the limits of growth in both the West and East and the limits of polarisation within nations.

Weighing all this against the background of current events, together with the importance he placed on social sculpture, and his belief that everyone is an artist (i.e. creative) who can, and should, play a part in shaping society for the better, provides what better reason for producing 'Joseph the Giant and the 7000 trees'.



Scale model of theatre framework



A selection of thumbnail images used to ascertain the animated puppets required for the story.