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The Top Ten: Public art

John Rentoul • Sunday 02 November 2014 01:00 GMT • Comments



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Most public art is horrible, in my philistine opinion (the Philistines being a maligned and cultured people), usually made bearable only by the greater awfulness of the modern architecture around it. But some of it is good. War memorials are in a category of their own, see below.

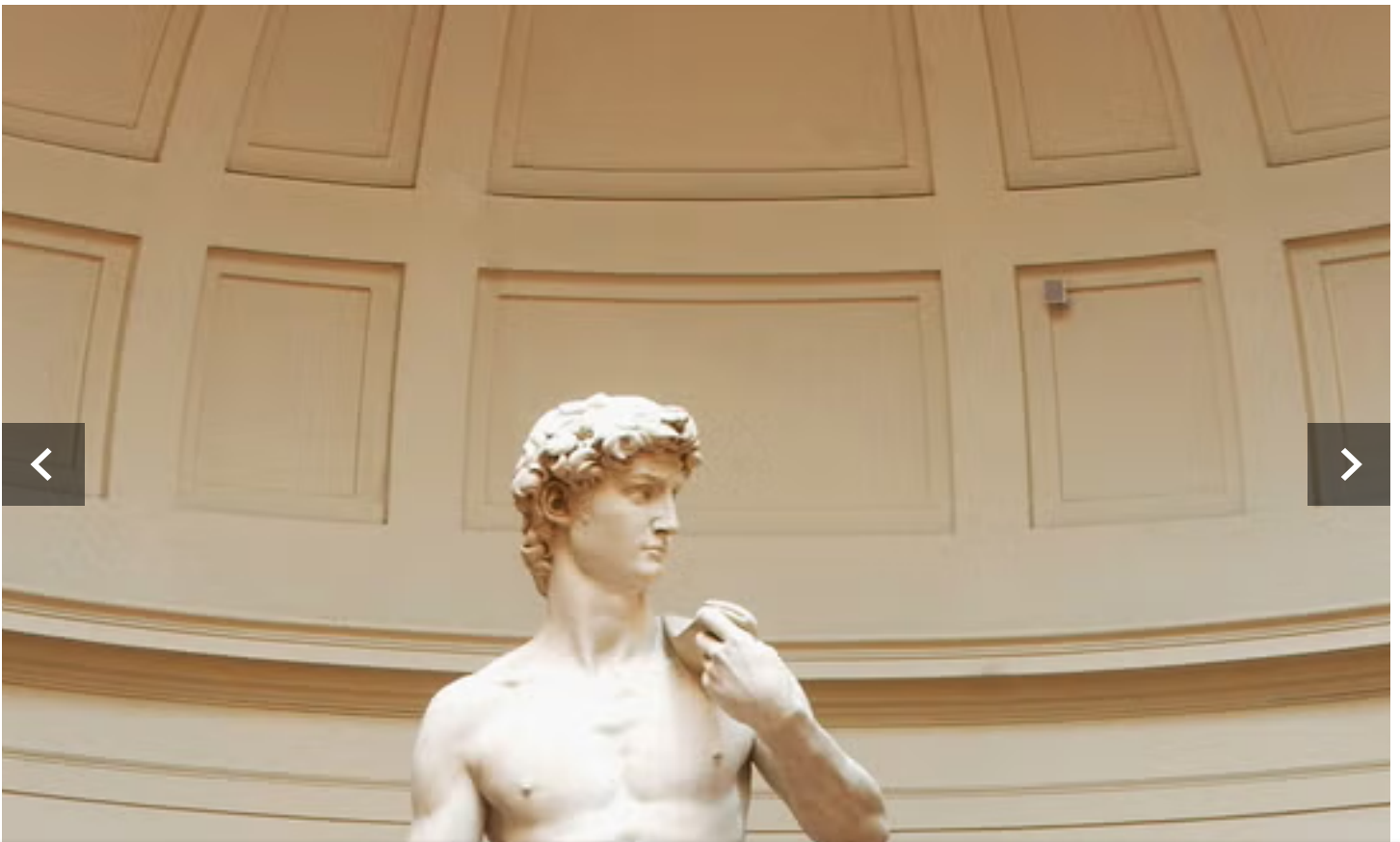
1. 'Out of Order' (1989) By David Mach. The "domino phone boxes" in Kingston- upon-Thames. "Not spectacular or meaningful, but fond memories," says Katherine Drayson.



2. **Michelangelo's 'David' (1504)** Linda Smith says it was originally conceived as public art and is therefore "hard to beat". She is right.
3. **'Skin 2' (2010)** By Mehmet Ali Uysal. A giant clothes peg in a park outside Liège, Belgium. Nominated by Simon Potter and identified by Neil Jefferies.
4. **Statue of Liberty, New York (1886)** This 93m-high symbolic figure was designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi. Nominated by Clive Davis.
5. **'Freedom' (2000)** By Zenos Frudakis. Outside GlaxoSmith-Kline's head office in Philadelphia. A naked man emerges in stages from a wall of bronze.
6. **Trafalgar Square Lions (1867)** By Sir Edwin Landseer.
7. **'Winston Churchill', Parliament Square, London (1973)** By Ivor Roberts-Jones. Nominated by Sir Michael Barber and by Jack Evans, who says: "I love the way he looks at Parliament in such a scathing way."

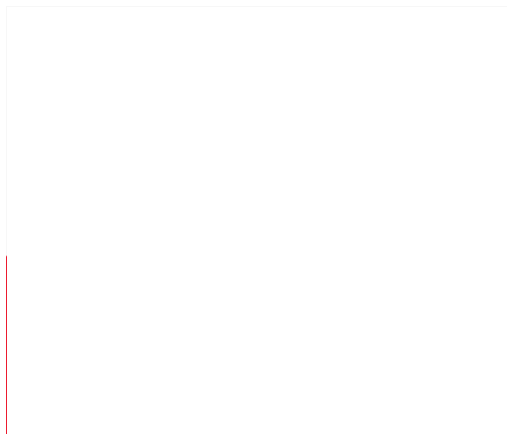
The best public art

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8. **'The Bull' in the Bullring, Birmingham (2003)** Actually titled *The Guardian*, a 2.2m-high bronze sculpture of a running, turning bull, created by Laurence Broderick. Nominated by Andrew Denny.



9. **Stanley Matthews statue at the Britannia Stadium, Stoke-on-Trent (2001)** Three figures made by a team of local sculptors. Nominated by C Keeling.

10. **'Conversation à Nice' (2007)** By Jaume Plensa. Seven seated figures on 12m-high poles in Massena Square in Nice, France. Nominated by Helen Catt: "They're not exactly pretty but they are quite striking."



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Next week: War memorials

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