



# The Windsor Sculpture Park

The Windsor Sculpture Park is an outdoor art exhibition, composed of approximately eighty sculptures, murals and monuments. Due to the fact that these pieces are subjected to the elements, weather and public interaction it is incredibly important that they are each maintained with care. For this reason conservation assistants are hired every summer in order to help ensure that the Sculpture Park can still remain as one of the most popular attractions in the city of Windsor.

These students utilized their unique backgrounds in art history, museum studies, graphic design, industrial design, mathematics and law to help maintain the eighty-four sculptures, monuments and murals within the city. Along with regular maintenance, which included washing and waxing these sculptures, the group also participated in two major community events this summer: *Tembo Wash Day* and *Sesqui*.



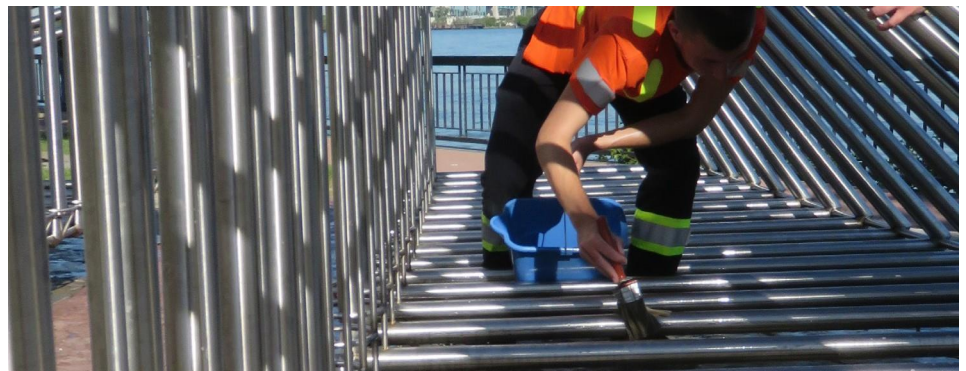
# Careful Cleaning



The most common materials that are used in the Sculpture Park are bronze, aluminum and steel. These materials are washed with water and Ivory Soap, which is environmentally friendly. This solution is typically able to get rid of any foreign deposits that may have built up on the pieces, such as dirt.

Conservation assistants typically begin by trying to remove any grime with synthetic sponges, as they are gentle and do not damage the artworks. If sponges are unable to remove any foreign deposit on the piece, then the next step is generally to use toothbrushes and gently scrub small areas of the sculptures at a time. This is a very time intensive process, but is completely necessary in the upkeep of most sculptures. After all the dirt has been lifted from a sculpture then it is rinsed with water.

Often regular cleaning of the sculptures throughout the summer is enough to maintain the integrity of the pieces; however, in the case of bronze waxing is another step is taken to ensure longevity. Clear Trewax, which is marketed for waxing hardwood floors, is applied in thin coats to help protect these metals from water damage. In order to wax a sculpture, conservation assistants typically use a cloth to apply the wax to smooth surfaces, and use toothbrushes for more detailed areas. After the wax has been applied, it must be left for twenty minutes to ensure that it has adhered to the sculpture and then it is buffed to bring back its shine.



*The Garden* | Maryon Kantaroff | 1978

# Major Maintenance

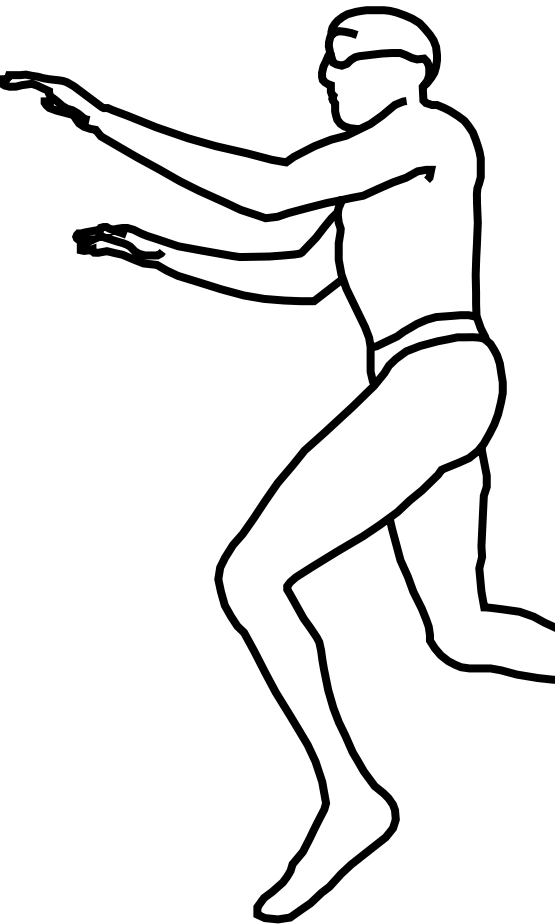


Figure 1 - Cotton pads soaked in wax remover on Flying Men



## WAX REMOVAL

Using Trewax Instant Wax Removal, staff was able to remove all of the wax build up on the sculpture *Flying Men*, by Dame Elisabeth Frink. Using nitrile gloves and protective eyewear, the group soaked cotton pads in the solution, placed them over the sculpture in small sections (see figure one) and allowed them to sit for approximately ten minutes. Afterwards, the cotton pads were removed and then began a five-minute scrub with toothbrushes. The ratio that was used was dependent on how much the wax had built up in each particular section. However, the 1:1 ration that was recommended by the manufacturer of the product seemed to be too strong a solution. Often a solution of one part solution to two parts water was the ideal. While the process took several days, it helped to bring back the luster that the objects originally had.

## REPAINTING PLAQUES

Some of the plaques are made of stone or cement and have black lettering. Overtime, with exposure to the elements, the lettering has a tendency to fade and flake. The staff repainted over ten plaques by hand this past summer, increasing readability.

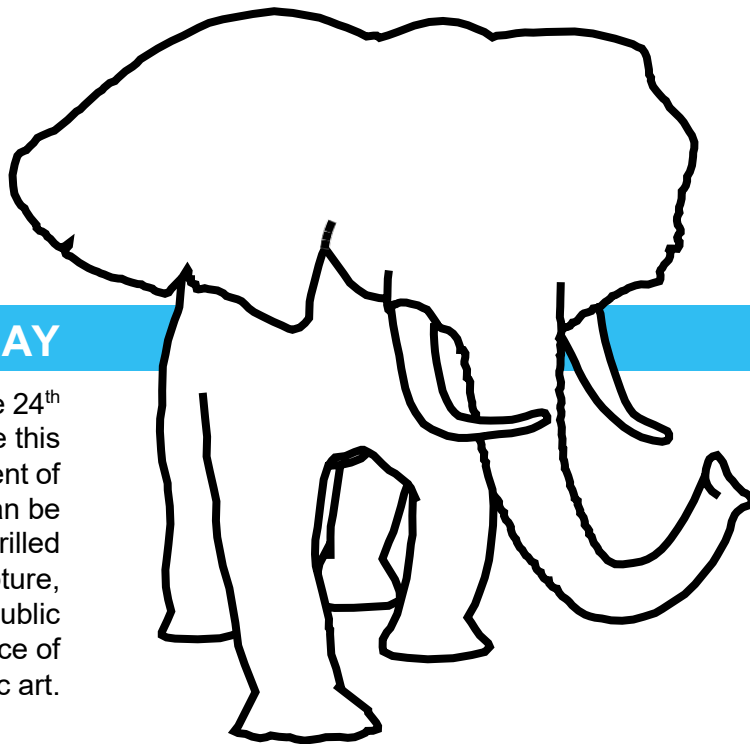


Figures 2 and 3 - Lettering being repainted by the staff

# Extravagant Events

## TEMBO WASH DAY

This annual event took place on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> with over one hundred children helping to make this day a success. Tembo is the bronze embodiment of a mother elephant and her two babies and can be found in Centennial Park. While children are thrilled to be able to engage with this awe inspiring sculpture, it is also an excellent way for members of the public to gather an understanding of the importance of maintaining public art.



## SESQUI

Sesqui was an event that travelled across Ontario to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. This was a 360-degree cinematic experience that illustrated the beauty of each province and territory, as well as the various talents of people across the nation.

## FLAG RAISING

In Dieppe Park, a colossal Canadian Flag was installment in order to commemorate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> and Windsor's 125<sup>th</sup> birthdays. The flag is eighteen metres long and nine metres high, has been raised atop a forty-five-metre pole.