



ARTIST BIO

Layla May Arthur (1999) is a Jersey born paper artist currently living in the Netherlands. Her work has been exhibited internationally in America, Italy and Switzerland.

Layla handcrafts each detail in her work to transform paper into a vehicle for narratives. She cuts elaborate patterns into the paper, sculpts, and layers the paper to create intricate worlds and plays with lighting to create shadows which interact with the surrounding environment. This creates an experience of visual storytelling which collaborates with the audience, as they step into the installations projections and become a part of its ongoing dialogue. The shadows inspire a conversation which is both playful and engaging, as the audience quite literally situate themselves and their interpretations within the work. The audience briefly feels as if they are in another place; that the story breathes, and they become immersed in the narratives dialogue.

Layla has also applied this technique of cut out forms to public art proposals, set designs and shop window installations.

ART WORK SPECIFICATIONS FOR PROPOSAL

Artist - Layla May Arthur

Title - Selwerd Is

Material - Corten Weathering Steel

ARTWORK EXPLANATION

After speaking with residents and students living in Selwerd, I believe that a sculpture at the Dragant building should be an agent for positive change in the relationship between the students and Selwerd.

Many students come to live in the Dragant building for 3 to 4 years but they explore Selwerd very little and leave without getting to know the neighbourhood. This creates a disconnect between the residents who shop every day in the shopping centre or walk their dog along the cycle paths.

My proposal is a sculpture created by the residents of Selwerd which shows the students the possibilities of what Selwerd can mean to them. I will ask the people of Selwerd to write sentences and make drawings about how it feels to live in this neighbourhood. They can focus on the smallest details which make them smile, such as the birds which visit their balcony each day or consider the larger context that they have already lived in Selwerd for 20 years.

The idea is that having such a sculpture in the Dragant garden will inspire a dialogue among the students where they begin to wonder what it is that Selwerd can offer them. I hope that they will start to consider how much they are already involved in the local community and then they might choose to seek out more of the local shops and walk around the neighbourhood on a sunny day. The sculpture will become a physical representation of what the Selwerd community has to offer; A reminder to the residents of the place they live and an inspiration to the students to discover this for themselves.

I think the location of the sculpture directly next to the restaurant is also ideal for this concept. While the residents will readily admit that Selwerd has problems, many people are also proud to have made their home here and were excited about the idea of being able to share with the students what the neighbourhood means to them. I hope that the sculpture will draw local residents to the student building, as the restaurant does and therefore facilitate the opportunity for the students to interact with local residents. The residents will search for their own words on the sculpture and consider the words of their neighbours, reinforcing a sense of pride in their local community.

I think that all change begins with a conversation and as an ex international student I have seen first-hand the benefits of immersing yourself in the local community. Taking that first step is never easy but I would like to hope that my sculpture could be a starting point.

I hope that because of my sculpture the residents can talk among themselves about what Selwerd means to them, the students can discuss what they already know about Selwerd and with every conversation the community can become more united.

All with the aim of making Selwerd a place for both Stadgers and studenten.



Ik kan heel
snel zien vanaf
mijn huis

Ik loop
snel door
de stad
om mee te praten in het
Winkelcentrum

Ik woon
hier al 20
jaar

Mijn dochter
heeft haar
vriendin Hanna
Schwarz

We hebben allemaal een
verschillenke
achtergrond hier
Alles is mogelijk
komen er mensen uit
verschillende landen

ALLES DAT IK NODIG
HEB IS HIER

Er zijn veel
plekken om van de zon te
genieten

Praten met mensen
tijdens wandelen van
de hand

Mijn hele familie woont
hier (in de buurt) Dit vind ik belangrijk
in Sweden:

Mijn huis
is in Sweden
Ik heb een prachtige tuin

Mijn huisliefde

Er zijn zoveel bomen in
de buurt
Elke dag wandel ik
door Sweden

Elke dag naar school
Spelen mijn kinderen in de
speeltuin

THUIS ETEN
MET DE
FAMILIE

Mijn tuin ligt aan
het water

Al mijn vrienden wonen dichtbij

DE
ZON
SCHIJNT



Ik kan heel
snel zien vanaf
mijn huis

Ik loop
snel door
het centrum
om mee te praten in het
winkelpark

Ik woon
hier al 20 jaar

Mijn ouders
hebben
veel vrienden
hier

ALLES DAT IK NODIG
HEB IS HIER

Praten met mensen
tijdens wachten van
de bus

Er zijn veel
Parken om van de zon te
genieten

Mijn hele familie
woont hier (in de buurt)
Die vind ik belangrijk
in Selwerd:

Mijn huis
is in Selwerd. Ik heb een prachtige tuin

Ik hou van
fietsen door de
buurt

Er zijn zoveel mensen in
de buurt
Elke dag wandel ik
door Selwerd

Elke dag naar school
Spelen mijn kinderen in de
speeltuin

Mijn huisdieren

THUISE TEN
MET DE
FAMILIE

Mijn tuin ligt aan
het water

Al mijn vrienden wonen dichtbij



TECHNICAL ELABORATION

The 3d model which I have included of my sculpture presents a design of words and texts which is an only an example of the final outcome.

A few of the words and drawings are produced by Selwerd residents but most of the design is fabricated. Over the course of two weeks, I spoke with many people in the local community about my idea, but I found it problematic to ask them to spend time making these beautiful drawings and text if my proposal was not chosen. It seemed unfair to promise them that their words would become a sculpture if that was not the case.

Therefore the first step if my idea is chosen will be gathering the text and images for the sculpture, which I believe can be done in a short period of time. I have already discussed with Jan van Bergen that we can use the Duindoorn restaurant as a base to collect submissions for the sculpture. I intend to collect submissions by advertising an event of a few days in the restaurant specifically dedicated for people to come and create submissions, approaching people walking and in the shopping centre and possibly the local newspaper.

The scale of how I collect submissions will depend significantly on what size the sculpture is. I would like to include almost every submission if possible. I believe the ideal size for the garden space is 2mx7m but this sits far outside the budget and so I have included other size and price options. I think the sculpture can work really well with the stone seats already in the space as they can be placed as seating inside the sculptures curve.

Technically, the handwritten text and drawings will be transferred onto the metal using laser cutting. I will create a composition of all the submissions which I will then turn into a vector file, and this can then very easily be laser cut into metal. The submissions will need to be altered slightly; I will have to make them workable as a cut out design, but I will retain as much as possible of the original features. All drawings and text will be cut bigger than the original submission, to allow the laser cutter to cut them correctly. Once I have all the submissions, I estimate needing one week to create the final vector file ready for cutting. I have experience in creating these types of file for other projects.

Once I have created the vector file, The company Mannen van Steel is responsible for laser cutting the design from metal and curving the metal into a gentle curve. The sculpture will be built from 12mm thick weathering steel, a metal which requires no maintenance and is long lasting. The sculpture will be embedded in concrete at strategic points to allow it to stand and the concrete will be hidden underground. This is all work the company has done before.

I have discussed with Van Wijnen the installation process and they are confident that it is all possible. Mannen Van Steel will supply the metal and do all metal production work. I have no technical sketches of the sculpture as all physical technical elements will be done by other professionals. Technically, I will design the vector cut out file. All other technical work of cutting the design will be done by a laser machine and then the curving of the metal will be done by Mannen van Steel.

Material – Corten Weathering steel

Thickness - 12mm

Size – Price depending

-The metal extends 250mm below ground and is equipped with a foot plate with mounting holes for Van Wijnen to work with in installation

-Metal sheet is rolled into a gentle curve

-Metal sheet has supplied vector drawing laser cut from it

BUDGET AND SCULPTURE DIMENSIONS

The prices are coming ASAP, I have spoken with Mannen van Steel via email about the prices, only option three is within the budget of 12,500 euros but I am waiting on an official quotation document. I hope it will be with me before Saturday and I will send it along as soon as I have it. I have not included any prices yet to avoid confusion later, if the official document does differ slightly from the prices I was quoted via email.

Quotation one:

- beeld 7mtr lang 2mtr hoog
- opgebouwd uit Corten plaat 12mm dik
- half of the metal with laser cutouts

Quotation two:

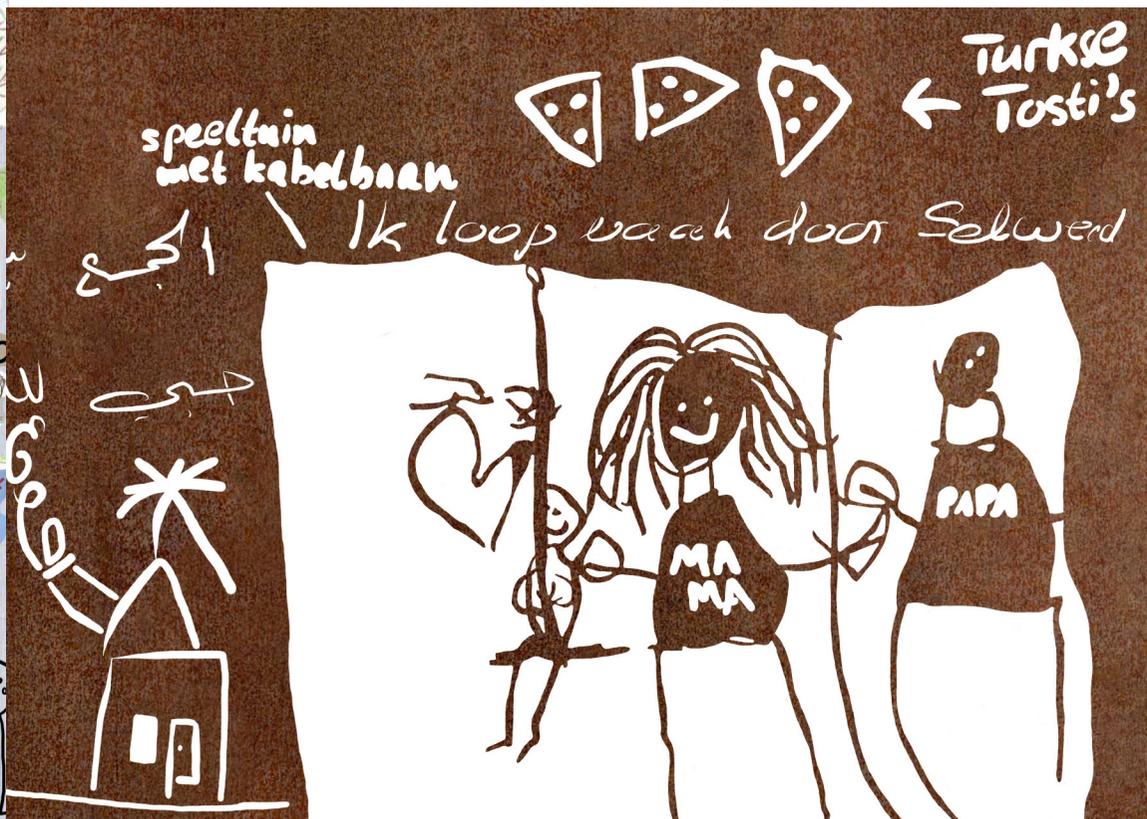
- beeld 5mtr lang 2mtr hoog
- opgebouwd uit Corten plaat 12mm dik
- half of the metal with laser cutouts

Quotation three:

- beeld 4mtr lang 2mtr hoog
- opgebouwd uit Corten plaat 12mm dik
- half of the metal with laser cutouts



To create the composition, I will first make a collage of all the texts and drawings to see how they best fit together. Once this is done, I can trace all of the text and drawings perfectly to convert them into the cut out style you see below, ready to be physically cut by the laser machine.



Dit vind ik belangrijk in Selwerd:

speeltuin met kabelbaan



Turkse Tosti's

Al mijn vrienden:
LEON
Falco
Willem
Duuk
Hugo
Bowe
Matthias
Milano

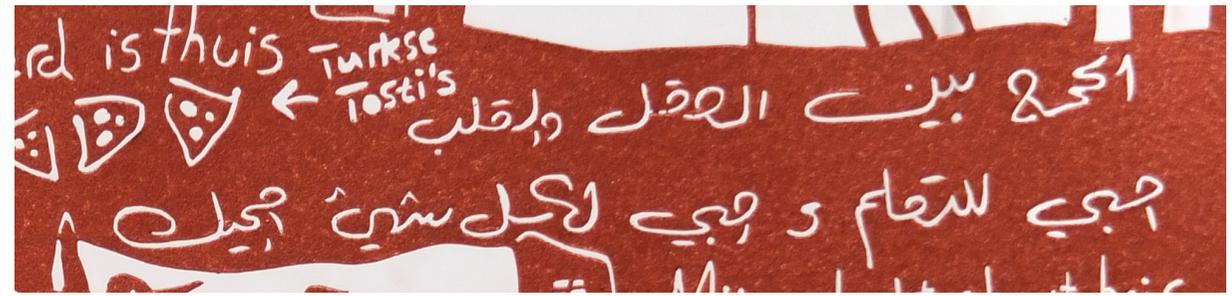
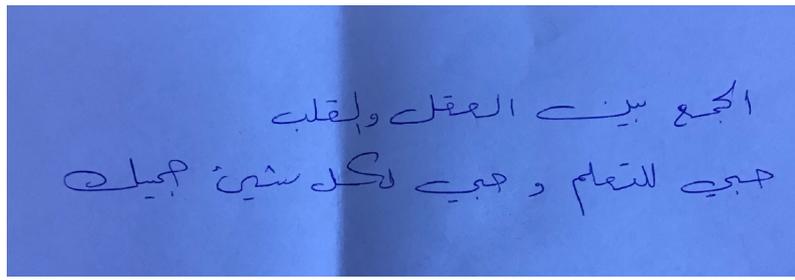


An example of how a drawing can be converted into a cut out design from a child's submission.



I would like to also retain the handwriting of the residents who submit a written sentence, to keep the voice of the person present. I think it is important to see visually that this sculpture is made up of many voices. This is also why I will accept submission in all languages. Many of the residents I spoke to had very poetic sentiments about Selwerd but they found they could not express this in Dutch.

Below is an example in Arabic where one resident writes how Selwerd is a place of knowledge as she has learned the skills to work here but also a place of the heart as she has built a community of people she loves here.

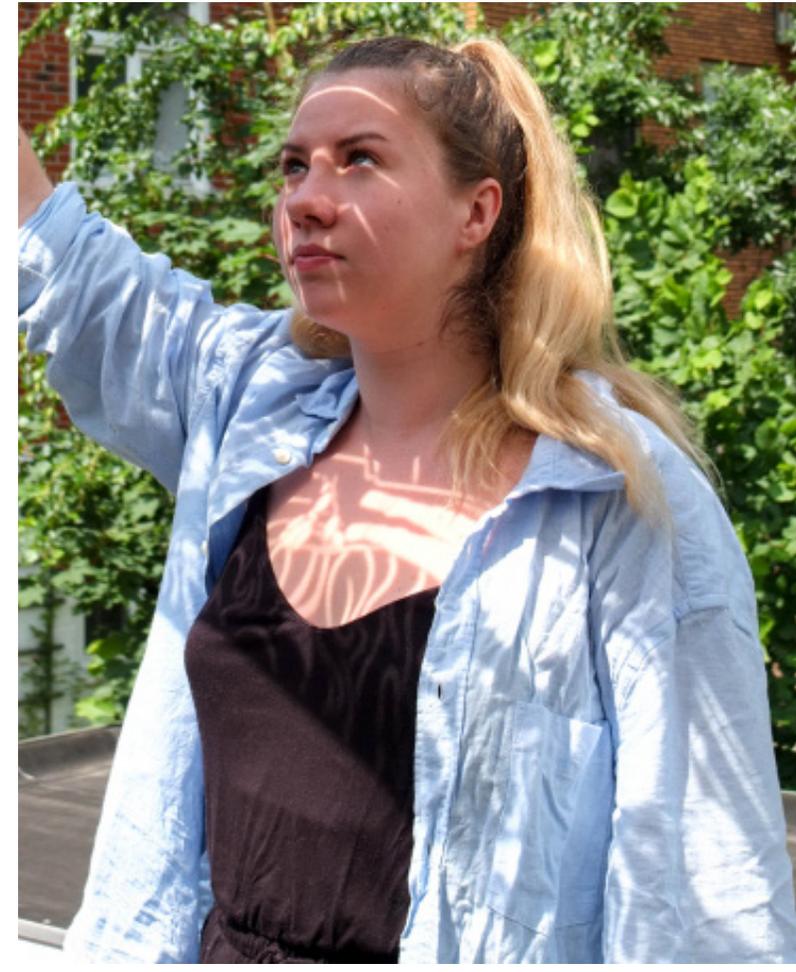


ARTWORK RELATIONSHIP WITH MAINGUY

My proposal is similar to the work of Robert Maingay, as many of his later works (such as his positive – negative series) revolve around the use of negative space. Visually my sculpture demonstrates the same concept of using cut outs to cast intricate shadows onto the visitors and surrounding landscape. I wanted to create a sculpture which engages the students and residents in a very physical way. When coming close to the sculpture on a sunny day, each visitor will be immersed in the experiences of the Selwerd residents via the shadow projections. As the students sit in the space to enjoy the sunshine, they will quite literally become a part of the Selwerd experience through the eyes of the residents.

As I hope for the sculpture to inspire a dialogue among the students, I think this interactive element using negative space is essential in allowing the students to really feel as if they are invited into the conversation. They literally are integrating themselves with the slogan “I participate in a Sunny Selwerd”, standing in the sunlight’s shadows and hopefully feeling that they are a part of the community.

Every day of the year and with each hour of the day, the sculpture also changes depending on the natural lighting in the Selwerd district. This creates a piece which is truly engaging for the students who might see the piece every day. The sculpture also becomes one with the landscape around it, as the cut outs allow you to see the scenery of Selwerd and the thoughts of the residents integrated as one.



Ik loop Selwerd is thuis
- vaak door Selwerd

Turkse Tosti's

أحب بين العقل والقلب

Er is altijd iemand #
om mee te praten in het
Winkler Centrum

جبي للترام و جبي لكل شئ جميل

Mijn dochter heeft haar
alles Haar vrienden, Haar School

Ik woon
hier al zeker 20 jaar

We hebben allemaal een verschillende
achtergrond hier Als we gezellig zitten in het plein
komen er altijd mensen bij

Mijn kinderen groeien
hier op

Praten met mensen
tijdens uitlaten van
de hond

Mijn hele familie woont
hier (in de buurt)

Dit vind ik belangrijk
in Selwerd:

Er zijn veel plekken om van de zon te
genieten

Mijn huis

Ik heb een prachtige tuin

