

PUBLIC ACTS: Tombstone (lets get over this)

Acts of Making Festival 2015

Acts of Making was a festival organised by the Crafts Council in 2015 that celebrated and challenged the notion of contemporary craft through performance, ephemeral practice and live installations often with public involvement. Taking place in three UK locations, Wolverhampton, Gateshead, and Plymouth, the festival provided a platform for ephemeral craft practice within communities that have had limited opportunity to experience and participate in performance work. Commissioned by the Crafts Council for the **Acts of Making** touring festival **Tombstone (let's get over this)** offered the opportunity for skateboarders to become makers in the grinding of specially made stone topped benches as a form of social sculpture. The stones themselves were made by Walker and Sons, monumental masons who specialise in making gravestones and memorials, hence the project's title **Tombstone**. With this reference to traditional monumental masonry techniques, the project offered a public demonstration of skater craft that is all too often prohibited in municipal urban spaces. As part of the **Acts Of Making** Festival, an exhibition was held at Plymouth College of Art exhibiting a series of Harrison's **Tombstone** Developmental drawings and benches that had been 'sculpted' by the skateboarding event at Bilston. Harrison also gave talks to the public and students at Wolverhampton University School of Art and Birmingham City University School of Jewellery.

