Ancient Arts 3D Sensory Interpretation Panels

Ancient Arts has developed a new and innovative style of interpretation panel designed to vividly bring to life archaeological sites.

Illustration 1: Some examples of the 3D 'artefacts'.

Using either bronze metal or GRP cold cast bronze relief work we can present accurate replicas of artefacts found on, or associated with, specific archaeological sites. This technique allows rare and precious objects from the past to *emerge* out off the surface of the panel and for the viewer to touch and physically interact with them.

Illustration 2: The 'artefacts' emerging from the panel.

By using high quality bronze metal or GRP resin (made to look just like bronze), the relief work will be physically extremely durable, while at the same time adding a sense of *gravitas* to the interpretation boards.

The relief work can either work as a stand alone artwork or could be resin bolted to the oak frame or stone base, with an accompanying or surrounding GRP written information panel.

The objects *emerging* from the panel can also extend beyond or draped over the edges of the panel, giving a more organic, less regimented natural feel to the whole interpretation experience. For example, at a Prehistoric stone tomb the Sensory Interpretation boards could be casually draped over a quarried stone around subtle, complimentary GRP information panelling.

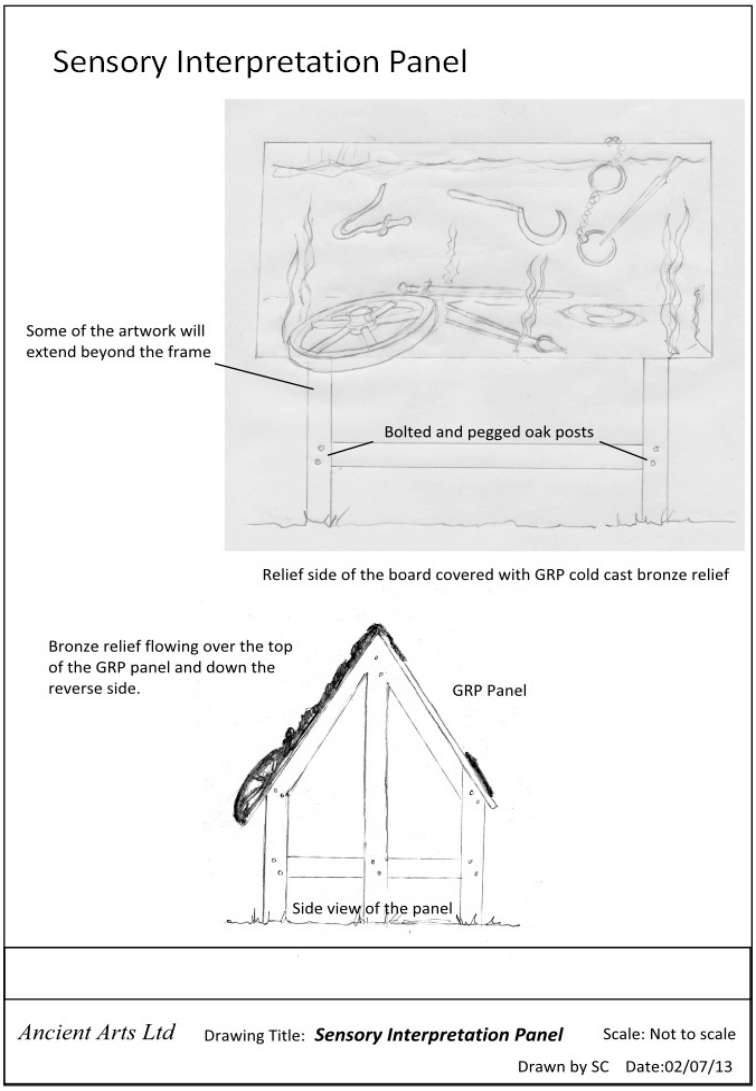

Illustration 3: An example of a Sensory Interpretation Panel, note how the bronze relief work 'drapes' over the oak frame panel.

Sensitively designed in this way the Sensory Interpretation Panels become works of art in their own right and will add to and improve the visitor experience. Making it a notable and stand out heritage experience for the viewer.

Not only does this technique improve the quality of the experience for the viewer by connecting the artefacts found on the site in a real, physical way, but it could also inspire the viewer to further investigate other archaeological sites or associated heritage centres, such as local museums where the original artefacts from that site can be viewed.

The intellectual access to the sites can also be expanded. The depictions of the objects will appeal to younger visitors, providing a more accessible and non literal interpretation of the site. The sensory nature of the panels would greatly increase the intellectual access to, and experience of, the site and its historical context to visitors with disabilities.

Artefacts found on or associated with the site, but normally **not** included in the visitor experience (usually being located off site at a museum) can be re-connected with the site and encourage an on site dialogue which in turn would led to a more complete and comprehensive interpretation of the site.

Illustration 4: Organic materials, like this woven, grass sling, can be depicted.

This technique allows for the accurate reproduction of any artefact type, including examples of artefacts made from organic materials which don't normally survive in the archaeological record and are therefore not usually associated with many sites. Environmental evidence from the site could also be depicted , setting the sites within their own, contemporary landscapes. Landscapes

which may be very different from the present day. Again this can enhance the *telling of the story* of the site far more vividly and in a more complete context.

Illustration 5: Plant material can also be accurately depicted, illustrating the landscape backdrop in which the sites would have built.

By having 3D representations of the objects, either as 'found' artefacts or as reconstructed, working objects the sites can be set within their contemporary social and technological context. This technique will work for site of any period from geological ones through to the modern period.

Summary of the Benefits of the 3D Sensory Interpretation Boards

- Vividly and accurately bring the past to life
- Allows visitors to physically interact with objects and plants which illustrate the site's history
- Physically very durable
- Made from high quality materials
- Can work as stand alone art works, enhancing the whole visitor experienced
- Improve the quality, scope and intellectual access to sites
- Reconnects artefacts with the sites and the physical environment providing a more complete account of the site
- Puts the sites back into their cultural and environmental settings
- More appealing to younger visitors and those with learning difficulties
- Provides a more sensory experience for all, but especially visitors with disabilities
- Can provide additional technological and social perspectives to the story of the sites and

the people who built them

- Can encourage on site discussions about how the site was built, how it was used, how the builders lived *etc.*
- Would inspire further investigations into the local history with visits to local museums and associated sites
- Can be used on sites from any period

Way Markers

In addition to the Sensory Interpretation Panels, smaller *stand alone* Way Markers can be designed using bronze, copper sheeting or GRP resin plaques attached to oak posts. The plaques would be made to have the appearance of bronze metal, greatly increasing the sense of quality to the experience. These could led the visitor to the site (for example from a suitable parking place). Site specific 3D designs, usually based on a specific artefact or symbol associated with that site would enhance the quality of the experience and *sense of place* in a much greater way than simple GRP resin, one dimensional 'badge' would.