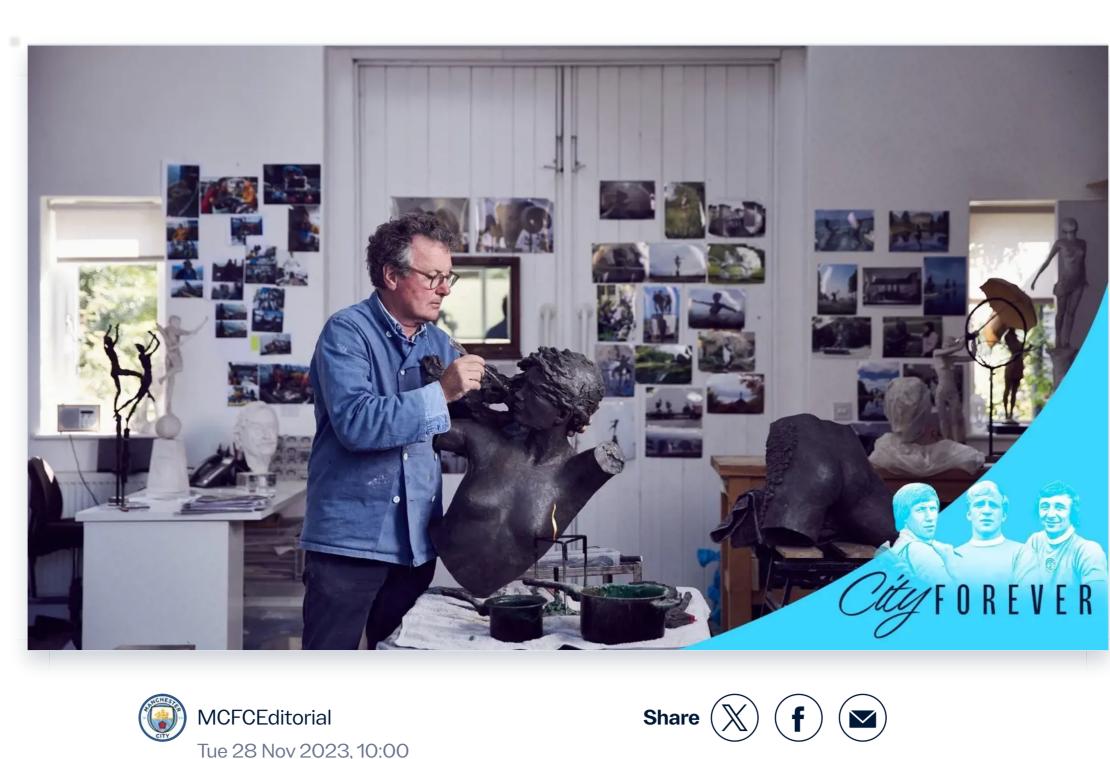
Club News

CITY FOREVER: THE SCULPTOR'S **STORY**





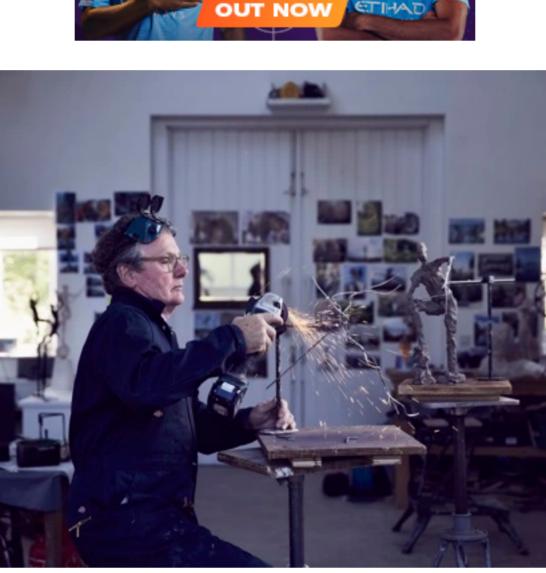


at the man who created it... David Williams-Ellis is a world-renowned sculptor and artist who was a student of eminent octogenarian drawing teacher, Nerina Simi.

Summerbee at the Etihad Stadium, we look closer



FINDING THE **NEVER STOPS** POTENTIAL ABILITY



ended up doing other things and taking on normal jobs. "As a child I was always messing around with plasticine, clay, and sand - I was always making things and I was lucky to have an art master who asked, 'why don't you try sculpture?'

Here, Williams-Ellis reveals his own journey, plus how he

players...

says.

created the statue of three of Manchester City's greatest ever

"I was really lucky. As a child, I was surrounded by artists," he

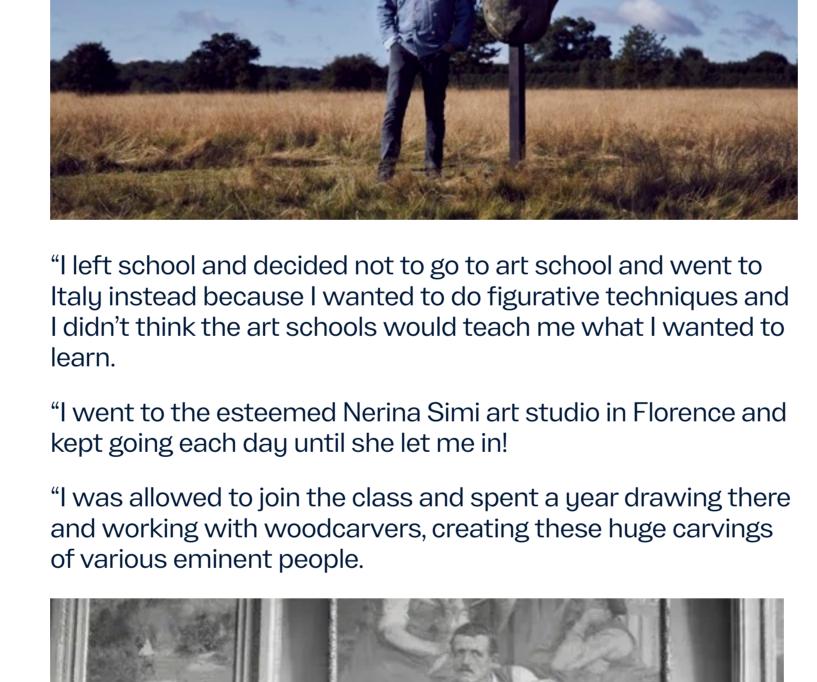
"My great uncle was an architect who created Port Merrion in

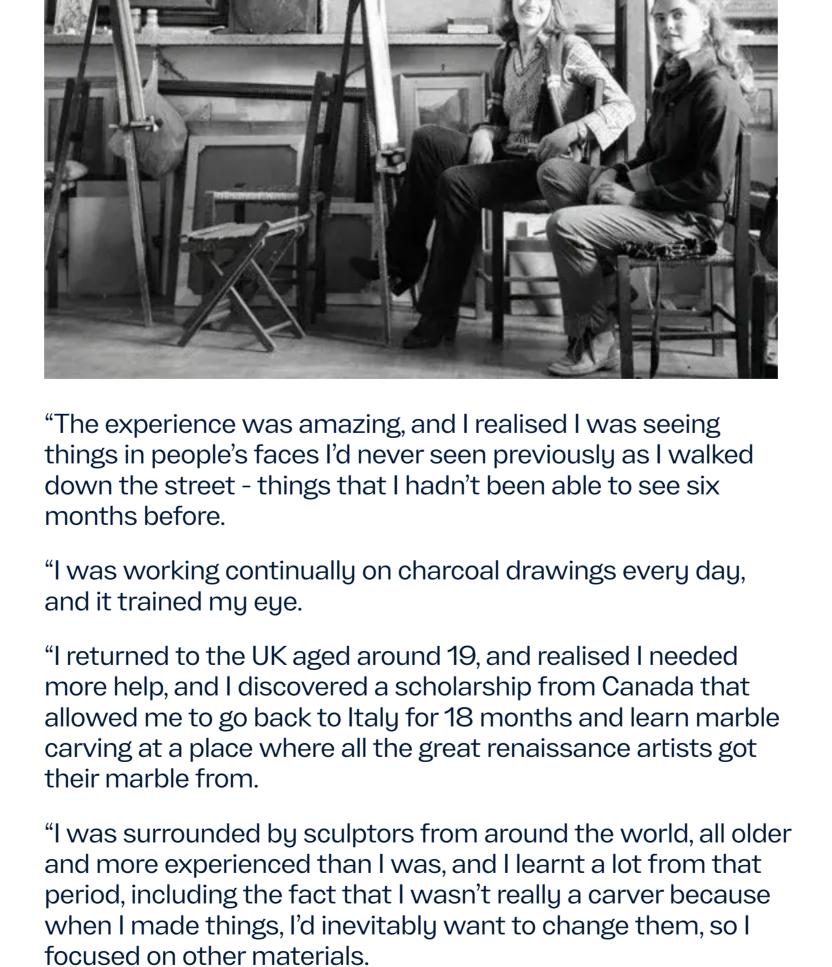
Wales; my sister was an artist - and both my parents could

have been artists, but the Second World War meant they

"I was lucky because I spent a lot of time - too much time - on my sculpture work, while my other academic work struggled

along. "My art master completely adopted me and was giving me all of his private time because I think he recognised I had a threedimensional understanding of things.





"As there weren't many young Italian sculptors at the time,

they were very keen for those who were interested to learn

their trade, so they gave me a lot of space and time, and I

xylem Let's Solve Water

"I started working with clay and bronze, but I had to learn

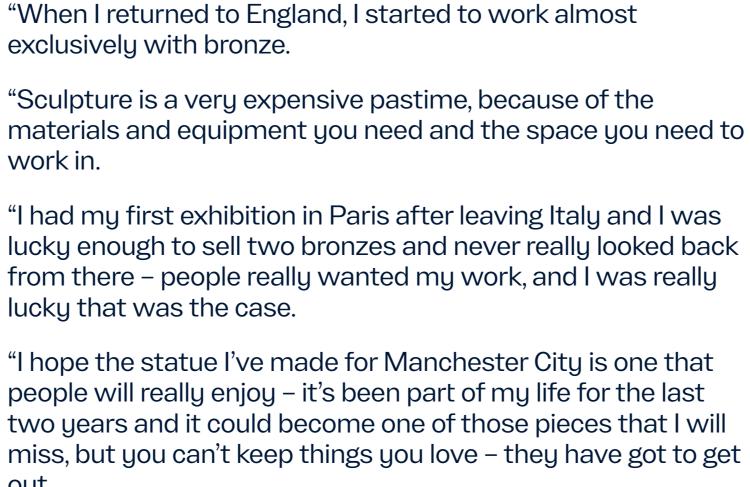
in a bronze foundry in Italy.

gradually learned the process.

work in.

out.

about casting. I was able to work for a couple of hours a week



"As a sculptor, you have to move on and you create these

movement in it as you try and capture the pace and

"A lot of my work has a lot of sport in it in that there's a lot of

things for other people, not yourself.

movement of things.

was 10 or 11.

Manchester City.

of these legendary players.

"I love what I do and I'm passionate about what I do, and I want to be able to give something for other people to enjoy. "What excited me about this project was that they were three iconic figures that I grew up with.

"I was only very young when they came to prominence, and I

had cigarette cards with Bell, Lee and Summerbee on when I

"This is the first football project I've worked on and it's been

"It's a celebration of their lives and their achievements at

very exciting and I hope I've captured the essence of all three

"I didn't want to do something gimmicky or kitsch - I needed capture the essence of each player because it's rare in football you get three players close together.

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"Colin Bell has this balletic athleticism that is extraordinary -

"Then there was the pugnacious enthusiasm of Franny Lee

"I wanted to capture the jocularity, skill and endeavour of Mike

"My research was a lot of very pixelated black and white films

and not-so-good photos from the 1970s, all so I could see their

highlights and moments and I needed to capture all the traits I

"They needed to be three individuals that also worked together

because they were the characters that led that wonderful

Summerbee and his determination to get past people - and I

and the way he is straight in there, because he was a hard

body moves, almost as though he is a puppet.

wanted to include all those attributes for all three.

mentioned coming through.

what great sculpture does.

past, because that's so important.

player.

team.

happy."

it's almost as if his body is suspended under the arms and his

"The families and the club helped me with photographs, and I did a lot of research on the Internet to get everything as close to how each of the players were in real life. "When I went to the Etihad, the sheer scale of the stadium and

the stands made it clear that the statue had to be larger than life sized and raised up, to give it a presence. "The figures are nine feet tall on a 165cm plinth and I think they'll work really well. "What I really want to achieve is that when people see the statues, they take a sharp intake of breath, and the same the next time they see it and the same again and again... "I hope they see something different each time because that's

"It's a celebration of the team of that era and its success – it's

also about a sense of history because we need to know our

"Hopefully it will have a place in the Etihad's history and that

people get something from it - if it achieves that, I'll be very

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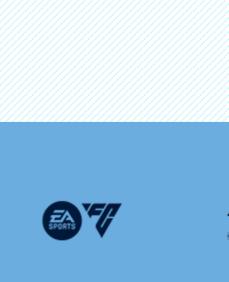
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