

Parramatta Sculpture Walk Activity Sheet

Last of the Mackerel, by Michael Snape

Title of Sculpture: *Last of the Mackerel*

Materials: Stainless steel

Dimensions: H 300cm x W 900cm x D 20cm

Weight: 300kg

Artist Statement

The figures are represented as recumbent, reclining, lazing. Vertically configured, those figures become what we bring to them with our memory, our knowledge and our imagination. They seem more energised.

Are they rising from the ashes? Is it biblical? Is it just life? Is it abstract or is it just plain old beautiful?

The work is laser-cut, finished, and then bent. The bending makes it strong.



Sculpture No 7 in Parramatta Sculpture Walk Brochure

Critical and historical study

1. Start a line drawing of *Last of the Mackerel* to get a feeling of its shape and lines, then block in the negative or positive shapes only using one colour.
2. How does blocking in the positive or negative shapes change the look and feel of this work?
3. Consider the ways in which Snape's work interacts with the landscape that surrounds it. Walking around Parramatta campus are there other places within these grounds where you think it would be better sited. Take a photo of alternative sites and explain why the work could be better placed elsewhere. Consider sight lines, visual interference from buildings and vegetation.