

Stephen Friedman Gallery

The Evening Standard
Meet the artist behind the Fourth Plinth
Jessie Thompson
1 June 2017

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David Shrigley: meet the artist behind the Fourth Plinth



Image: A big hand: David Shrigley gives his own thumbs-up as he stands beside his giant sculpture on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square (Daniel Hambury)

Last September, Londoners were given a reassuring thumbs-up thanks to David Shrigley's Fourth Plinth design. Really Good - a seven-metre-high black bronze thumbs-up - was described by our critic Ben Luke as "one of the best yet" when it came to previous designs that had graced Trafalgar Square's

plinth.

Shrigley's design will stay in situ until March 2018, when it will be replaced by Michael Rakowitz's *The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist*. Until then, Londoners can enjoy Shrigley's striking monolith, but it won't be the last we're seeing of him. The artist has many strings to his bow - here are just a few of his past triumphs.

He designed a mad Scottish football mascot

Shrigley designed Kingsley, the official mascot for Scottish club Partick Thistle, in 2015. Described by some as looking like "Lisa Simpson on meth", Shrigley said he represented "the angst of every football fan". Many across social media said he looked absolutely terrifying, but that didn't stop Kingsley from having active Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts.

He made a giant concrete shopping list for Central Park

Eat your heart out Ed Stone - Shrigley's 17ft slab of granite was just a giant list of things to remember to buy at the shop, from cheese to tampons. It was outside the New York park until February this year, where an accompanying sign said that it shouldn't be read as an anti-monument but an "ode to humanity". "Through its celebration of common activity, its anonymity, and absurdity, the sculpture becomes a memorial both to no one and to everyone," it read.

He was nominated for the Turner Prize

In 2013, Shrigley was nominated for contemporary art's biggest prize for an exhibition of his at the Hayward Gallery.

David Shrigley: *Brain Activity* was the first major survey of his work and featured his famous drawings, as well as photography, painting, music, sculpture and animation.

One of the most enduring images of the exhibition was a taxidermied Jack Russell holding a sign that read "I'm Dead" - a reference to the work of famous shark-stuffer Damien Hirst, maybe?

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He has published more books than JK Rowling

Shrigley is a prolific publisher and has created a number of books full of his drawings and cartoons. The black humour of his drawings calls to mind the work of Modern Toss, and Shrigley himself did in fact create a political cartoon for the New Statesman from 2009 to 2010.

He's made a few records too

In 2014, Shrigley collaborated with Malcolm Middleton to make a spoken word record of sorts called Music And Words. Before that he made a record with Iain Shaw called Listening To Slayer, which featured his words to Shaw's music. He also animated the music video for Blur's Good Song, and drew one of Jason Mraz's album covers.

He worked with Sadiq Khan on a campaign to celebrate London

Last year, Shrigley created a poster to support Sadiq Khan's London Is Open campaign to promote the capital as an open and tolerant city. Other artists who took part include previous Turner Prize winners Gillian Wearing and Jeremy Deller.