

# Sculptures steel show in new arts centre exhibition



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A steel sculptor is showcasing his first solo exhibition in Scunthorpe.

Mark Beattie, 24, is studying a masters degree in European arts practice, and has six steel sculptures on display at the 20-21 Visual Arts Centre.



INSTALLATION: Sculptor Mark Beattie (right), who has six steel sculptures on show at the 20-21 Visual Arts Centre, Scunthorpe, with Paul Fletcher, from HTF Stainless Steel Fabrication Ltd, who helped Mark develop the project

Mark, from Nottingham, lived in the East Midlands for 20 years before studying contemporary art practice at the University of Leeds.

His work is inspired by an exchange trip to Australia, and reflects the struggles of leaving home, being on the other side of the world and being separated from the ones you [love](#).

Mark said: "I applied to display my work here while still studying my degree, and didn't hear anything until a year later.

"The news came out of the blue, but was a fantastic surprise. To exhibit in Scunthorpe is also a fitting beginning given the nature of my work."

For his exhibition at 20-21 Visual Arts Centre, Mark has created his most ambitious piece yet, Global Odyssey 1, which takes centre stage in the sculpture courtyard.

He said: "The town has such a historic link to steel, and that might be why the arts centre was so keen to have my sculptures on show.

"It's clear that the local area has a strong, proud tradition of steel production and it's something that I wanted to engage with when responding to this opportunity to exhibit at 20-21 Visual Arts Centre.

"Global Odyssey 1 is my largest and most ambitious piece to [date](#), specifically designed for the exterior sculpture courtyard. I hope the sculpture complements its surroundings and eventually finds a place to rest where it can highlight and promote the proud steel industry of Scunthorpe.

"It feels fantastic to have my work on display in the sculpture courtyard because it is open to the elements, and you can physically see what wind, rain and sun does to affect steel.

"I feel as though this is a real starting block for me, and I will always remember Scunthorpe for helping to kick-start my career. I owe a lot to the staff at the visual arts centre for giving me this opportunity."

Mark's exhibition will be on show at the 20-21 Visual Arts Centre until Saturday, May 19.

The centre is located in Church Square at the end of the High Street in Scunthorpe town centre.

The galleries are open between Tuesday and Saturday from 10am and 4pm.