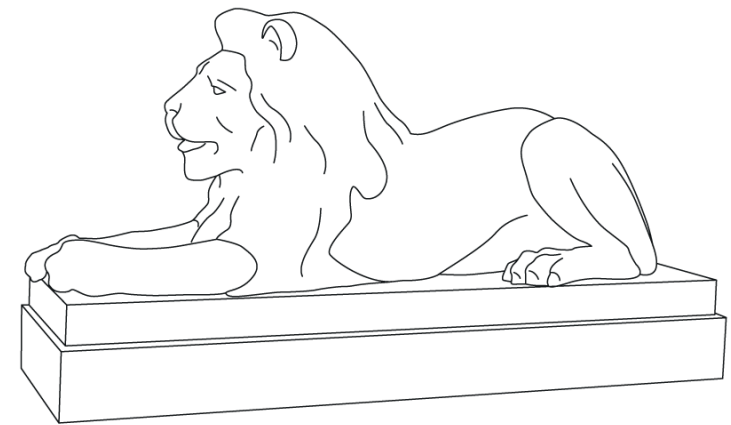
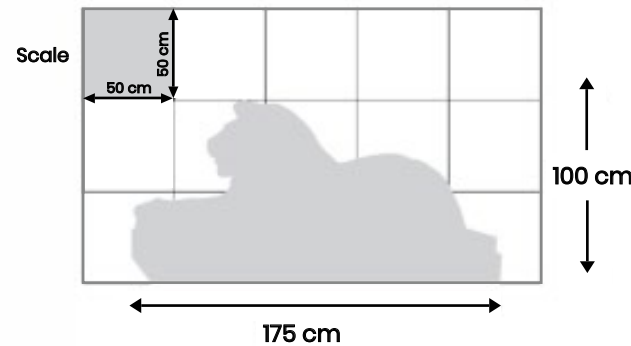
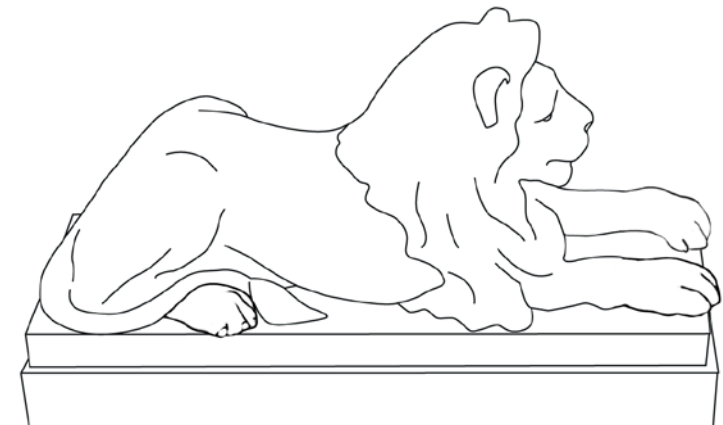




Left



Right

“To translate a **2D concept** onto a **3D canvas** and create a **community focused sculpture** that celebrates the **history** and **culture** of Portsmouth.”
In celebration of Portsmouth’s centenary of city status.”

Hosted & commissioned by **Portsmouth City Council** in collaboration with **Wild in Art**.
Lion to be featured prominently in front of our Sponsor, **Portsmouth Marriott Hotel**.

Translating flat 2D ideas onto a **textured fiberglass surface** presented a series of significant **spatial & technical challenges**.

Key **Portsmouth** focused design elements were to be hand-painted onto the sloped, muscular contours of the lion's body without warping or distorting the design. With the desired goal of complete legibility.

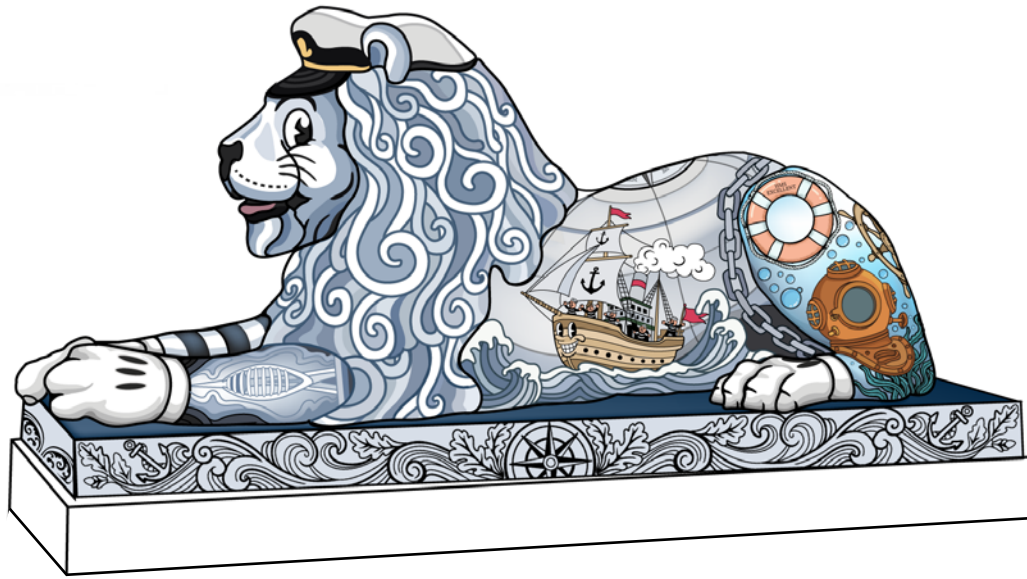
Meticulous work was required to reach recesses underneath **the mane, paws, jaw and tail** to ensure **full 360-degree design coverage** fit for public viewing.

The sculpture required careful **surface preparation**, sanding and soap washing for use with **high-grade, weather-resistant acrylics** and **spray paint primers**.

Collaboration with stakeholders required the balancing of social media excitement with the **project's PR restrictions**.

This was to ensure teasers and progression content **engaged the public and corporate sponsors**, the **Portsmouth Marriott Hotel** without spoiling the official reveal.





Storytelling Through Detailing:

To give the lion a link local identity, the design was packed with local heritage references. Representations of **Portsmouth's heritage** and **historical roots** to be painted included:

- Anchor & Steering Wheel of the Mary Rose, Nautical Compass, Sailors Hat and Rope Tail.
- Spinaker Tower, D-Day Insignia, flower Naval tattoos.
- The HMS Victory & Southsea Lighthouse.
- The Hampshire Rose & Pompey Football Club.
- Literary legacy - Charles Dickens' Pipe and books.
- The Mane : A rhythmic wave like pattern.

All design elements have been **placed with precision to combat spatial clutter**, to be hand painted with **technical consideration to the muscular contours** of the Lion sculpture.



The Portsmouth Marriott Hotel Partnership:

Operating under **strict Wild in Art event guidelines** and media embargoes, both parties worked closely to **manage public releases**. To build anticipation **without spoiling the official reveal**, content was carefully curated, focusing solely on close-up detail teasers and non-revealing process shots.

The Marriott team fully respected the original artistic vision and intellectual property rights, allowing the design to develop organically while supporting the inclusion of key local heritage elements..

To directly **convert trail engagement into hotel visits**, an **exclusive commercial promotion** was launched: scanning the QR code on the sculpture's official plaque rewarded sculpture visitors with **25% off food and drink** at the hotel's restaurant and bar. This **bridged public art directly with hospitality revenue**.



Dealing With Technical Challenges:

To commence painting the pre-made fiberglass form, **surface preparation** was essential. **Sanding and cleaning with soap water to remove minor surface indiscrepancies** and applying a layer of **blue spray-painted primer** as a base. This was to seal the sculpture and **provide an optimal surface** for subsequent acrylic paint layers.

After painting had commenced, we needed to **safeguard the sculpture** against **weather, touch wear or anti social behaviour**. A two part **expoxy clear coat varnish** (Urban Hygienes: Easy on) was applied at a **5:1 ratio** resulting in a **durable gloss finish**.











Commodore Cat was successfully launched on the 13th July 2026. Recieving **overwhelming positive feedback** from **organisers, sponsors and the local community**. Positioned outside the **front entrance of the Marriott Hotel**, serving as a photogenic landmark piece for hotel guests and the local community.

We successfully merged **corporate PR goals** with public engagement, delivering **a high-quality visual asset** which features **high levels of narrative depth** that highlight the sponsor's connection to the **local Portsmouth community**.

The finished sculpture showcases how public art can effectively bridge **historical storytelling, corporate sponsorship and community engagement**. Commodore Cat has attracted **thousands of local residents** to the Marriott. At the time of writing the **25% off promotion** has been **collected 1800 times**, with many more visitors left untracked.

