

The second sculpture that I am going to talk about is the sculpture *Body to Soul* by Mary-Louise Browne. It was presented to Wellington City in 1996. It's situated on the beautiful slope with evergreens at the top on the boundary on the Botanic Gardens and Salamanca Road. Mary-Louise Browne explores the metaphoric, material and visual qualities of language in a range of media in this case black granite. The work challenges conventional readings and especially in this work with no word over four letters it demonstrates how apparently simple words can have multiple layers of meaning. The set of stairs is designed to follow the natural incline of the site with thirteen steps, eleven of them engraved with a word sequence from *Body to Soul*, with each step just one letter changing. Body, bony, bond, bend, send, seed, seer, sear, soar, sour, soul. The steps invite people to climb them and not only use them unnecessarily but as an actually helpful shortcut. They also get you to think as you climb them about the balance of imbalance between psyche and nature.

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The intention that Mary-Louise Browne wanted these stairs to convey was to remind the viewer of the power of nature and the truth of life and death – that all things must pass. That is why she also constructed the sculpture with the black granite which links to a memorial of some person or people that were great. It's about living life to the full because no one can be like you. The place was chosen because it intensifies the meaning how nothing modern or man-made can stop the natural cycle of seasons and life and death. It creates an untouchable atmosphere from the usual busyness of modern life.

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