Wellington Art and Design

Hello again, welcome to Wellington art & design, I am your host and we have a brilliant show lined up for you today. Last week we talked about some of Wellington's more abstract artists, Amie McVittee and the materials she used for her art. Today we will be looking at four different artists and their sculptures around Wellington.

Anton Parsons is a New Zealand artist who has over the past seventeen years sculpted and worked through the country. We look particularly at one of his works Invisible City presented to Wellington in 2003, located on the corner of Lambton Quay and Grey Street. The given name Invisible City gives away the message of the sculpture; for the blind. Two majestic slabs of stainless steel glow and reflect the city, facing each other with Braille lettering on either side; the sculpture has a sense of hidden communication, it was designed to be touched and interacted with rather than to be observed or read. The Braille lettering suggests a message of catharsis. A poem is translated through the Braille; this was written by Dr Beatson who collaborated with Parsons. Dr Beatson started to lose is vison during his childhood and has been blind since his mid-30s. The poem is quite dark and emotional to express Dr Beatson's grief. "You can also see the poem as being about how lonely blind people can feel in a big city" he said 'particularly Wellington where the wind so easily destroys the sounds that cue you in to where you stand." Parsons designed Invisible City to deny us access of understanding the emotion and reality of the message behind it. Invisible City is a beautiful sculpture that will always be admired by Wellingtonians.

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INVISIBLE CITY POEM:

The word made flesh can bleed. Am I bound or freed? Embracing visual silence alone I breed a virtual skin of signs.

Across the void but when the fault line ruptures the word made flesh will bleed. By the unseen quay I plant this graven seed betrayed by the wind my sonic charts destroyed tethered sign to skin.

I am both bound and freed.