

# Review of 2010

Gary  
**drostle**  
art for landscape & architecture

2010 turned out to be a real breakthrough year with lots of exciting works including major commissions in the United States.

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## The River of Life

**A major commission for the University of Iowa's new Wellness and Recreation Centre in Iowa City, Iowa, USA.**

2010's big news was this fifty foot long floor mosaic inspired by the Iowa river. The ceramic floor mosaic represents the River of Life, in the form of the Iowa river meandering through the geometric field patterns. The patterns were derived from Iowa Native American, American quilt and local Amish textile patterns.

"I imagined the lines of the river as life lines and the golden area in the centre as life in balance, 'Wellbeing'. Like the Iowa river itself the life lines occasionally burst out, overflowing onto the terrazzo floor."





## Imagining the Chester Amphitheatre

At around 100 meters wide and 4 meters high the blank retaining wall of the Chester Roman Amphitheatre was quite a design challenge and Gary's largest mural to date.

- The Chester Roman Amphitheatre Mural - (inset before the mural painting)

## Movement & Vitality

This entrance feature mosaic was also created for the University of Iowa (see cover story). Gary's second commission for the University's new recreation centre was inspired by the activities of the centre including climbing, dance, diving, gymnastics, swimming and yoga.

The mosaic measures 3.6m diameter and is made from unglazed ceramic laid in a dynamic flowing style in all hand cut pieces measuring 10mm x 20mm and less.

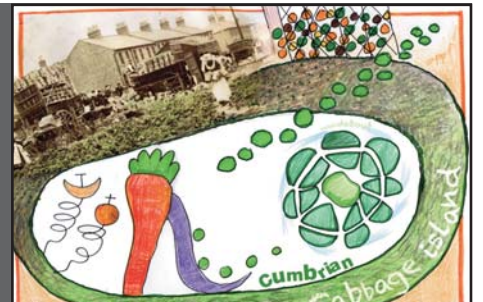




Unfortunately due to in-situ buildings only half of Chesters giant Roman amphitheatre was excavated leaving the arena divided in half by an un-sightly retaining wall. In a major refurbishment of the site 'Chester Renaissance' commissioned Gary to imagine that part of the arena that lies, still buried, beyond the wall. Working in close co-operation with Chester Archeologists and English Heritage Gary came up with this trompe l'oeil design that tracks the arena back in time as it draws away to the far side of the arena. The portrayal of the arena represents the most up to date archeological evidence and brings the space back to life as a full elliptical arena.

### **The Bex Story...**

Gary has been working with writers Rosemary Harris and Steve Tasane and Bexley Council to create new playground designs and a linked story book developed with local children. The Cabbage Island illustration opposite was drawn up by Gary using work produced by local children and archive material and is one of twelve mood boards produced for the playgrounds.



### **The Hemel Rainbow Memorial...**

Unveiled on armistice day, November 11th 2010, this upgrading project was to replace the old ceramic mosaic with Italian Glass Smalti mosaic on this Rainbow sculpture by US artist Colin Lambert. The Rainbow sculpture has now become Hemel Hempstead's War Memorial.



### **Discovering the Redwoods...**

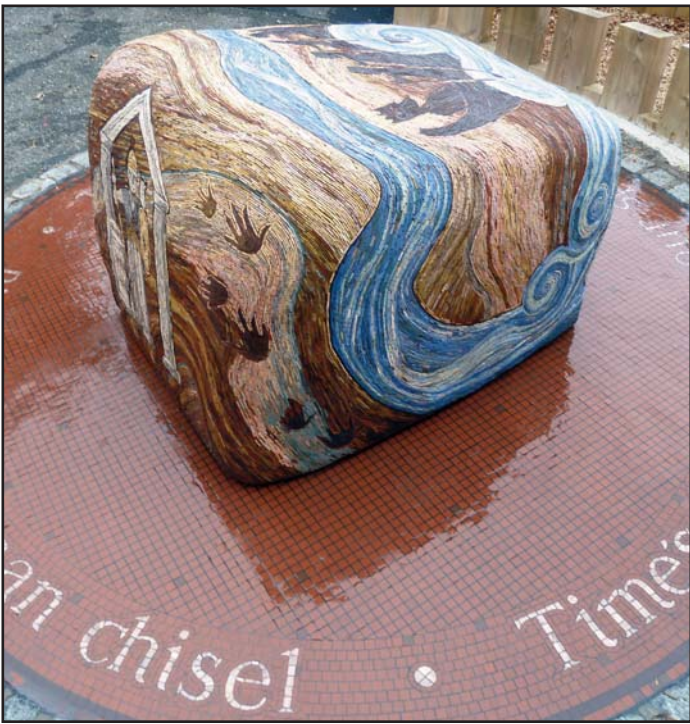
Gary spent a week in December in the Big Basin Redwood forest exploring, painting and sketching these magnificent trees and their habitat as a preliminary design stage for a new mosaic commission in California.



### **Navy Pier Exhibition...**

Gary's 'Lily Pond' mosaic, commissioned by Carterton Council in Oxfordshire, UK, featured in the juried 'Mosaic Arts International' exhibition at the Smith Museum on Navy Pier in Chicago 2010.





This unusual three dimensional mosaic sits surrounded by a haiku in bronze mosaic lettering. The project commissioned by Cheshire West and Chester Council, aims to highlight the rich heritage of the park.

The parks story begins with the footprints of an early dinosaur, the Chirotherium, laid down on the desert sediment preserved in the local rock for millions of years. The same rock then became a Roman quarry for the founding of the city, a shrine to the goddess Minerva can still be seen carved into the ancient quarry face. After the coronation of King Edgar in 973 AD six local kings rowed Edgar up the river Dee to the park area. The river itself was an important local salmon fishery and the distinctive quarry



# Home of a Goddess Named after a King Gift of a Duke

A three dimensional mosaic story stone unveiled this Autumn in Edgar's Field Park in Chester.



For a copy of Gary's Practice Profile just post this slip to:-

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Gary Drostle has been creating site specific art for over twenty years. His previous work includes murals, mosaics and sculptures for parks, public buildings, town centres, hospitals and private and commercial sites across the UK and in the USA. Gary is internationally recognised as a leading mosaic artist and has won numerous awards for his work.



You can find out more by visiting [www.drostle.com](http://www.drostle.com)  
 If you have a specific enquiry you can e-mail [gary@drostle.com](mailto:gary@drostle.com) or phone direct on 0771 952 9520

## Other News



### Master Classes

In March 2010 Gary gave a lecture and a series of masterclass in mosaic making at the annual conference of the Society of American Mosaic Artists SAMA in Chicago, IL, USA.



### More news...

You can keep up with Gary's work by checking the online newsletter at [www.drostle.com/newsupdate.html](http://www.drostle.com/newsupdate.html)