

## EVEREST ART PROJECT

### PRESS INFORMATION

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### The Project – Achievement and Creativity

Sculptor Oliver Barratt has been commissioned as part of the Everest Memorial Trust to create a sculpture which will be in permanent situ on Mt Everest. The aim of the project is to construct a memorial to the 174 climbers who have died in their ascent of Everest. The work will be constructed in the UK but, sited at 15,000 feet in the Himalayas, two days walk from Everest base camp. Oliver Barratt will head the team to transport and construct the sculpture on the **27<sup>th</sup> March 2003 and will return 16<sup>th</sup> April 2003. Sponsored by Nikwax Directional Fabrics.**

The memorial sculpture, 'Broken Whole', will consist of a single 2.5 meter stainless steel cone that has been split vertically down the centre. The two halves of the cone will be placed 70 cm apart and the names of the dead engraved onto the interior flat surface of the cone.

The memorial has been commissioned by the Everest Memorial Trust to be both, a celebration of the extraordinary human drive that motivates people to go beyond the boundaries of their everyday lives, and the tragic consequences of the risk inherent in this ambition.



Virtual Image of "Broken Whole"

## The Artist

Oliver Barratt is a highly respected sculptor, with a series of commissions to his name:

- National Power - Landmark Sculpture Dartford, Kent
- Unilever plc - Water sculpture
- Fullers Brewery - Russia Dock, London
- Eastern Arts - Carving commission

Recent exhibitions of his work have included:

- 2001 Art 2002 Islington, London
- 2002 Thinking Big. Contemporary British Sculpture Guggenheim, Venice
- CBAT Cardiff Bay Public sculpture Commission
- Salisbury City Center Commission



## The Sculpture

The form of the cone has been used for a number of reasons:

- It is assertively optimistic as it points skywards
- Its form, echoes the mountain yet is sufficiently synthesized to allow for a multiplicity of readings
- The geometry of the cone brings together opposing principles of straightness and roundness, the clarity of a line with the mystery of a circle

The splitting of the cone serves three functions:

- It symbolizes the tragedy of death where wholeness is irrevocably broken
- It creates an interior space within the work that establishes dark, intimate, inward looking place that is a counterbalance to the vast spaces of the landscape
- It allows the viewer to engage physically as well as metaphorically with the work

The choice of stainless steel is both practical and meaningful. It will mark the memorial out as wholly different from the dust browns and ochre's of the valley and will establish a cultural distance between those visitors drawn to the mountains and those who live in its shadow. It will shine and glint in the sun and be seen from any point in the valley. It will reflect and transpose the ever-changing light onto its surface and in so doing it will draw the mountains of the Kumbu valley into itself.

Left the finished sculpture



## Technical Information

The complex part of the design of the Everest Memorial sculpture was the requirement for the work to be flat packed into component parts that were small enough to be carried by Sherpa or Yak Train to the site. The work therefore had to be light, able to withstand extreme conditions and not require ground works or substantial concrete foundations. It is a hollow structure that will be filled with stones once it is assembled and therefore will have enough self weight to make it stable without foundations.

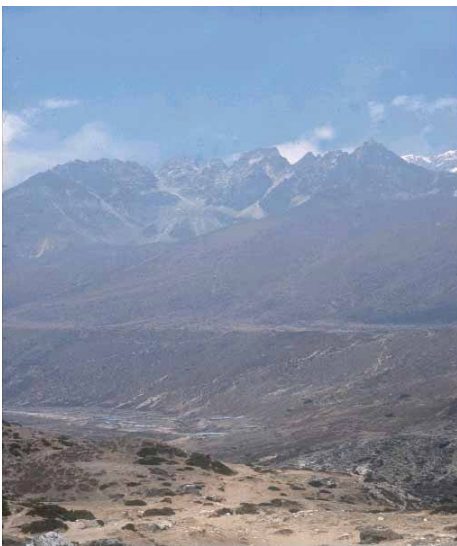
Each half cone is made by constructing a wigwam type frame that is held by internal plates at the bottom, middle and top. Onto the outside curved side of the frame profiled, pre drilled polished stainless plate is attached using 3mm button head stainless bolts. The tip of the cone is made from a solid form that attaches onto the wigwam structure. All the stainless plates are tiled so weather cannot work itself up into the inside of the structure.

The front flat panels of the memorial are laser cut 3mm brushed stainless plate that bolts directly onto the internal frame. The central panel contains the names. There is provision for more names to be added in the future.

Height	2.metres
Weight	450 Kg
Number of component parts	133
Number of stainless steel bolts	1100
Number of Boxes for transport	14 each box weighs no more than 40 Kg so it can be carried up the mountain
Height of memorial	15,500 feet
Patrons	South East Arts The John Coats Charitable Trust The Woodland Trust

## The Site

The site of the memorial is outside the village of Pheriche, close to the hospital that is the main focus of the Trust's activities. Pheriche hospital is one of only two Aid posts owned and run by the Himalayan Rescue Association of Nepal. It is situated at a critical height, 15,000 feet, two days trek from Everest's Base Camp, where the problems of illnesses at altitude begin to take hold. All trekkers and climbers have to pass through Pheriche on their way up to Everest.



View from site at Pheriche

## The Memorial Trust

The Everest Memorial Trust was established in 1995 by British Climbers who were part of the successful 1993 expedition that enabled Rebecca Stephens to reach the summit. On their return to the UK they decided to give back to the region some tangible sign of their gratitude to the people and the place that had inspired them.

The Trust set itself three goals:

- To extend and renovate the hospital at Pheriche - so far this hospital has reduced altitude sickness death rates from 80 to 0 people per year
- To install reliable electricity supplies in the hospital
- To build a memorial to those who have died in attempting the summit
- For further information please look at the Trust site [www.emt.org.uk](http://www.emt.org.uk)

## **Press Opportunity**

The project is an international initiative that brings together people and professions from all walks of life to achieve a common goal. It brings together countries and cultures to breathe life back into a vital part of the high mountain community in The Himalayas. It is a project that encompasses creativity, initiative, ambition, endurance and compassion, as well as the technical and logistical challenges that art at altitude creates.

MILK would like to invite **you** to become a part of this unique project and would be very happy to put you in touch with the team:

Oliver Barratt – sculptor and expedition leader

Dr Sandy Scott - co-founder of the Everest Memorial Trust, expedition member of Rebecca Stephens' team when she became the first woman to climb Everest.

Other expedition members: Rachel Campbell-Johnston, Chief Art Critic of The Times and David Mansell , Photographer for The Guardian, will be available to provide further press materials for the project as they join the team taking the sculpture on its journey to Pheriche.

The view from the hospital at Pheriche



**This is the first and only time that a permanent piece of art work will be allowed on this site.**

**For further information regarding this project please contact either  
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