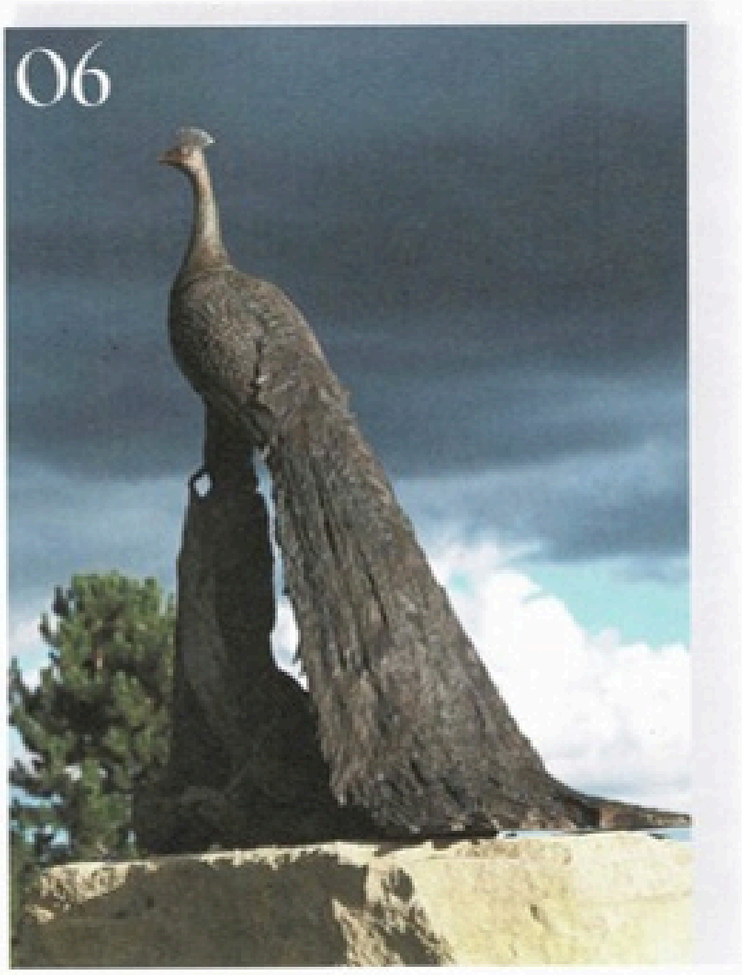
ARTSTRIBE

Journal of British heritage, art & design

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BRITISH SCULPTOR

HAMISH MACKIE

Hamish Mackie is a leading British contemporary wildlife sculptor, celebrated for bronze sculptures that capture the movement, character and vitality of the natural world. Working primarily in bronze using the traditional lost-wax casting process, Hamish combines a rigorous understanding of anatomy with an expressive, fluid approach to the surface of his sculptures.



For Hamish, the process begins long before he touches the clay. His work is rooted in observation, and whenever possible he travels to experience his subjects in their natural environment. Watching animals behave in the wild gives him an understanding that photographs alone cannot provide – how they move, how they hold themselves, their habits and instincts, and ultimately what makes each species distinctive.

AFRICA

MOVEMENT

Born in 1973, Hamish grew up on a livestock farm in Cornwall, where his fascination with animals began. He has been sculpting professionally since 1996 and has since travelled extensively in search of subjects, from Africa and the Middle East to Australia, India, Antarctica and Europe. His research trips have become an essential part of his practice, allowing him to study animals at close quarters and, using his specially adapted travelling sculpting box, sculpt directly from life.



Africa has always held a particular fascination, and it was on a trip to Lewa Conservancy in Kenya that he first began to sculpt. A more recent trip to Tanzania provided the opportunity to spend time observing African wildlife once again, including elephant, leopards, and lion. Being close enough to hear and feel the deep rumble of an elephant or watch a leopard with her cub are unforgettable experiences and reinforce his belief that the best wildlife sculpture begins with genuine observation.

Back in the studio, these experiences become the starting point for new work. Hamish does not seek to create simply a photographic representation of an animal. Instead, he builds an anatomically accurate foundation before allowing the clay to become more expressive, using bold marks, loose textures and sweeping gestures to suggest movement and energy. The finished bronze retains the immediacy of the original modelling, giving each sculpture a sense of life and presence

"Being close enough to hear and feel the deep rumble of an elephant or watch a leopard with her cub are unforgettable experiences"



His latest research has brought him much closer to home. A crab arrived at the studio courtesy of Tonks, a fisherman in Cornwall. Having grown up in Cornwall, Hamish has always had a strong connection with the creatures of its coastline, and the opportunity to work directly from a real specimen offered a fascinating way to explore the crab's extraordinary form through life casting and patination.

Hamish's new Stag Life Size 2026, continuing his exploration of one of Britain's most magnificent native animals. The stag is a subject he has returned to throughout his career, but each new sculpture provides an opportunity to look again - to study its anatomy, posture and movement and to find a fresh way of expressing its presence in bronze.
Mackie's work ranges from intimate studies of birds and mammals to large-scale public commissions, including the six life-and-a-quarter-size bronze horses at Goodman's Fields in the City of London. His sculptures are held in private and public collections around the world.

Whether he is travelling across Africa to observe elephants, studying a stag in the British countryside or examining a crab sent up from the Cornish coast, Hamish's approach remains the same: look closely, understand the animal and then allow the sculpture to capture something beyond its physical appearance.
For Hamish, the journey to bronze is as important as the finished sculpture. Each new animal brings another opportunity to observe, research and discover - and then to translate that experience into a piece of sculpture with its own character, energy and life.

