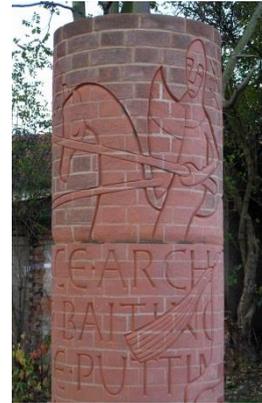
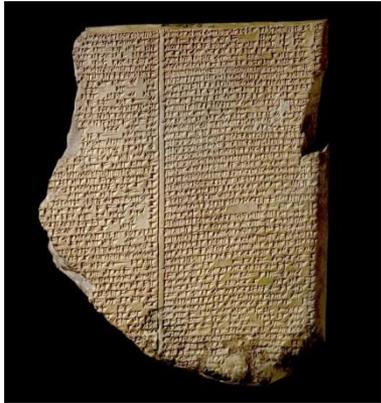


# Q3

## Messages

Artists, craftspeople and designers have often used art to convey messages. In the Gilgamesh Tablet, Assyrian craftspeople pressed tools into soft clay to tell the story of a great flood. Large carved stones were used by Scandinavian craftspeople in the Viking age to convey pictorial messages. Teresa Munn writes with slip trailed clay to explore relationships with the landscape. The sculptor Gary Breeze carves into a variety of different materials highlighting written texts and messages.

Jaume Plensa uses letterforms in his large-scale figurative sculptures to convey spiritual messages. Research appropriate examples and create your own three-dimensional response to Messages.



# Gary Breeze



## About Gary Breeze

Established in 1993 primarily as a letter cutter in stone and wood, Gary gained a reputation for the innovative content of his work. From a coin for the Royal Mint to the tomb of a king or the landscaping of a cloister garth, his sensitivity as a designer has won him numerous major commissions throughout the UK and helped to raise the profile of text and lettering as a public art-form.

This is his oak and Portland limestone bench that he made in 2011. He makes different things with inscriptions in from Latin songs and has been since 2002. I like this bench specifically as it has a simplistic design but when you look a little bit closer you see the detail that he hand carvers into the wood. On this bench he has done it on the side of it. I like the way he has put the bench together as it looks like the wood is just rested on top of the limestone.





This is his Sandstone globe with a quotation from Hamlet carved around the circumference of the sphere. I like this as it is simple like most of his other pieces. I also like the font that he has carved the letters in and the way that they wrap around the sphere. However, I don't like how it looks at the bottom of the sphere where the sentence finishes as they are all close together and it looks quite cramped. If I was going to make this I would like to try and use stone and maybe make it on a bigger scale so that the letters aren't as cramped together.

This is his Battle of Britain coin that he designed for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of those who fought in world war two. I like this design as once again it is simple like the rest. I like that this design as in a way it has a landscape theme due to the planes that are flying in the sky and the men running on the floor. It is also not over crowded or complicated so it looks nice and clean.



The image on this slide of his oak and Portland limestone bench that he built in 2002. I have chosen this picture as it shows off all the aspects of the bench. I want to try and recreate this bench but it would be on a smaller scale. The reason why I want to recreate this bench is because I like how he has integrated the theme of messages onto the side of the bench. I think that it looks smooth and clean as it is for the most part flush with the rest of the bench apart from where he has carved out parts of the wood to form the letters. I also like the colour of the limestone and how the colour of the wood go together as they are both quite simple and plain colours but together that show some contrast between the two materials.

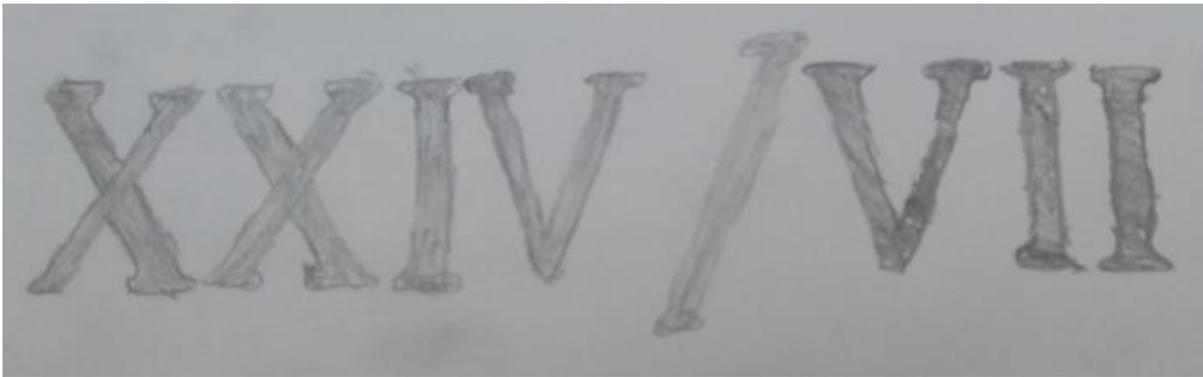


To recreate this I will start with down sizing it to probably about a quarter of the size but it may be smaller. For the legs I will try to get some breeze blocks that I can cut down to size and spray paint them to look like concrete. I will probably use the same material but spray paint it brown after carving in the message.



This is my first practice piece that I made using the laser cutter. I got a picture online of some roman writing and placed it into a laser cutting program. Before this I had to sand down the wood so it had a clean and smooth surface to print onto. Once it was printed I sanded it down again to remove the bumps. As you can see it hasn't printed on the wood very well and the lettering isn't all there. However, this could make it look better if I did it on an old piece of wood as it would look like it is from a long time ago.

This is a drawing of what I would like to laser print onto some wood as a test piece. It is the first half of my date of birth. I have decided to use this as the design as it is personal to me. On the actual piece of work I would use the full date but as this is a test piece I just wanted to see what it would look like. I like how this drawing looks as it has a sense of roman numerals which is what I was going for.



This is the full date of birth(the year is wrong but I will change this for the main piece) that I would like to laser print onto would. This is the template that I will send to the laser printer and it will print it onto what ever material that I decide to use. I like the font that it is in as it makes the letters look as though they are in a roman font. This will make it seem more relevant and accurate to the pieces that I am basing my work off.

XXIV/VIII/MMII

This is my second test piece using the style of Gary Breeze. As you can see I've used the laser printer again to etch in roman numeral dates onto the wood. I used my date of birth (the year on this piece is incorrect but I will adjust that on the final piece) as it is personal to me and will be unique to anything else that has been or will be made. To further adapt this piece I would like to get some wood chisels and carve out the letters that have been printed onto the wood. I feel this piece has worked well as the laser printer hasn't burnt the wood too badly and it has left a clear outline of the letters making it easy to read.



This is an adaption of the piece of work from the previous slide. As you can see I have laser printed two X's onto a block of wood and then carved them out with some chisels using the burnt wood as a guideline. I feel this has gone well as the outline of the shape is quite smooth. However, the inside of the carving is still quite messy and I would like to have cleaned it up with some smaller chisels and sand paper. If I were to use this technique in my final piece then I would make sure that the inside is as smooth as I can make it. I would also like to do this with the whole date and maybe paint the indented part of the wood black too add separation from the rest of the wood. It was quite difficult to carve however as the wood is quite hard hence why I feel that it isn't as smooth as id like it to be.



This is a test piece with my birth year carved into it. I got a picture of some roman numeral font and then copied that onto some wet clay. Once I was happy with the carving I left the clay to dry for a few days. Then I painted over the letters that I had carved into the clay. This makes them more visible and adds some contrast to the piece. To develop this piece further I would like to carve out the letters once the clay is dry as it would add a 3D element to the piece and I would then paint in the indent. This would also look neater as there is less chance of getting paint on areas that it isn't wanted like I have done on this piece. I could also do the opposite thing and carve away at all of the surrounding material leaving the letters standing out of the clay to see if it looks any better.

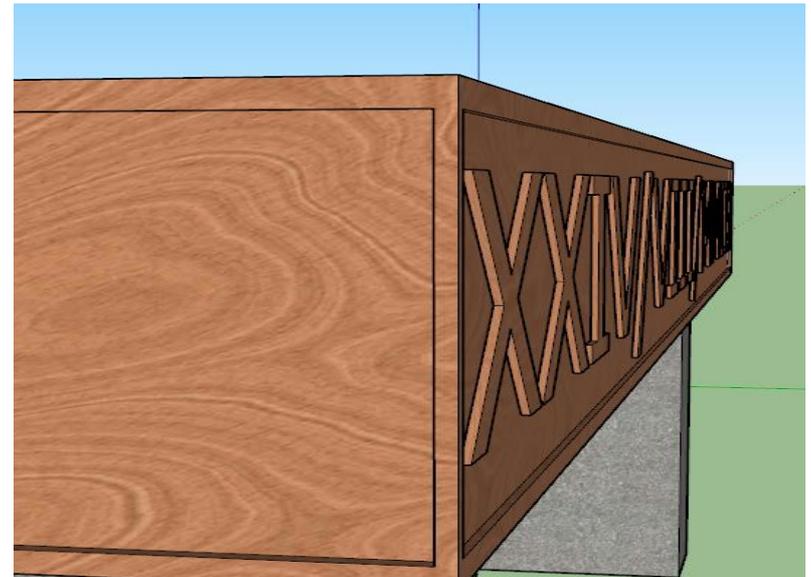
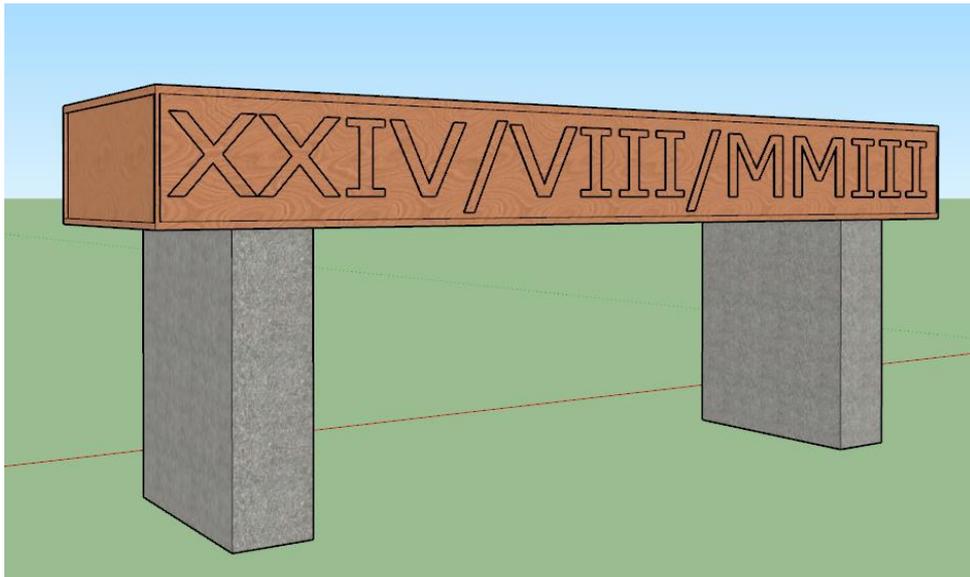


This is the last test piece that I made to see what I wanted to do for my final exam. As you can see I have cut a log of wood in half and laser printed that same date I've used before onto the flat surface of the wood. I've left the bark on the outside as well as I feel it gives it a more ancient look. Once the date was out lined I then "coloured in" the letters using a soldering iron so that it blended in with the printing of the letters. I like the material that this piece is on but I don't like the method that I used to get the letters to stand out as the soldering iron has a large head so it is difficult to stay inside the outlines of the letters and looks scruffy. The bark also started to fall off as it was drying so if I was to do this for my final piece I would glue it on so it doesn't fall off.

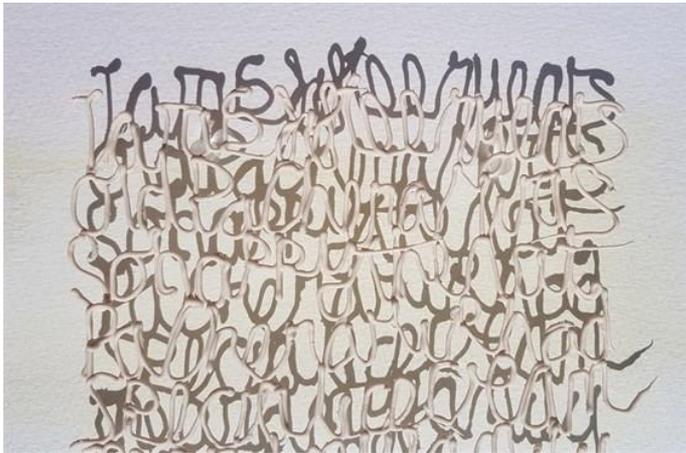


This is a design I made using a program called Sketch-up which is a 3D designing program.. As you can see it is a design for a bench with the date in roman numerals that I have been using throughout my test pieces(24/8/2003). I've made it so that the year is right in this model as there is a high chance that I will be using this as my final piece. I like how this design turned out as it gives a good idea of how the letters will look on a final design. In the picture on the bottom right you can see that I have depressed all of the surrounding area of the letters son that it gives it more of a 3D element. If I could I would like to add more dates around the outside of the bench in the same way that I did with the first one as it might make it look less empty but I don't want to over fill the space as it would start to looked crammed. I will also be hand carving the design using a selection of chisels.

**\*Note that I wont be using wood and will most likely be using stone as the final piece as it was difficult to carve out the letters. As shown in my test piece on slide 10.**



Teresa Munn



## About Teresa Munn

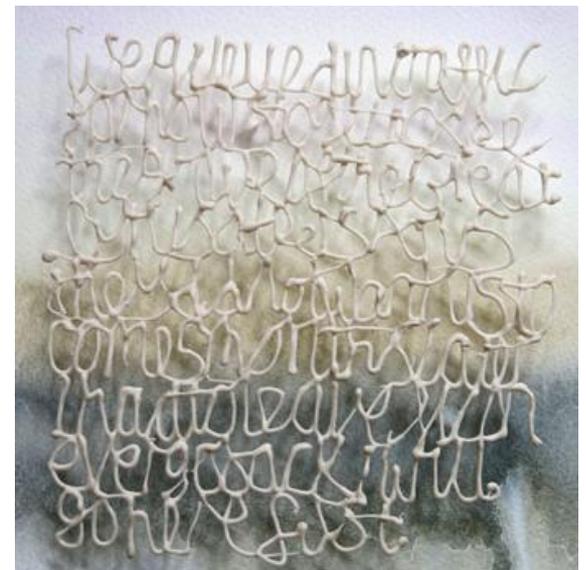
Teresa Munn wants to continue leaving messages on tablets like we did hundreds of years ago. She likes the shapes and shadows created by 3 dimensional slip-trailed text that is raised above a background. She has written with earthenware slip and more recently with porcelain to add a translucency. She does many exhibitions through out the year all over England to show her art work.



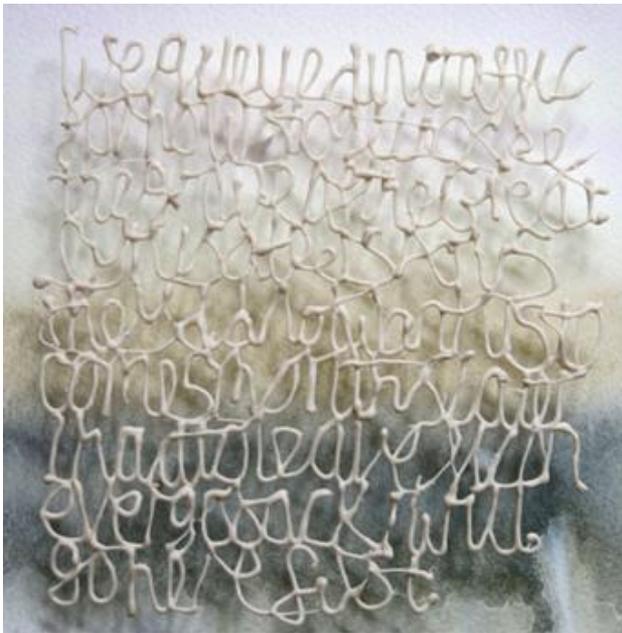


This is one of her art works that is in the shape of a bowl . She does these pieces by shaping clay into lettering that will form a message .I don't like these as much as they don't look neat and you cant really read what he message has to say. This one has been formed round the bottom surface of a bowl . Which again makes it even more difficult to read. If I was to try and make this I would write letters on the bottom of a poly styrene bowl and go over it with a glue gun and then spray paint it a different colour or dip string into glue and follow the writing on the bowl.

This is just a plain flat piece of her work. It is the same concept as on the previous one where she wants to convey a message but once again I feel it doesn't look very good as it is difficult to read and I cant really tell what it is supposed to say. This one looks more like an ancient tablet which I do prefer to the bowl look. If I was to do this I would write out the message on an A4 piece of paper and then go over the writing with a glue gun and once it has dried I would peel it off and paint it white or I will dip string into glue and follow the writing with it.



This is the piece from Teresa Munn that I will be trying to replicate. I like this piece as it is simple but it still shares the same concept and ideas in the way that she conveys her ideas. She makes them out of clay and rolls it out and puts it in the shape of the message that she wants. To recreate this piece I am going to draw my message onto some tracing paper in the same font that she does her work in. I will then go over the lines with hot glue as it will allow me to get the lettering and still have the thickness of the material as well. Once the glue has dried I will peel it off of the paper and spray paint it white so it resembles her work.



This is my first test piece for Teresa Munn's work. As you can see it says "hello". To make this I used hot glue gun and wrote of the words using it like a pen. I just drew them freehand onto a sheet of grease proof paper as I felt that they would look more like her messy style of writing. I used the grease proof paper as the glue would peel off better once it had dried. However when it came to peeling it off it still stuck a little bit as you can see in the picture. I also do not like this as it isn't as elaborate and just looks simple in comparison to other artists work. I would also spray paint them to see how this changes the final outcome.



This is my second test piece which I dislike the most out of the two. Once again the paper still stuck to the glue and wouldn't come off unless I broke the piece. It also doesn't look much like her style of writing. This is as it is very hard to try and write legible with a hot glue gun . I also don't like how the letters aren't the same thickness throughout. At some points it is thinner and at other points it is thicker. This is due to the fact that you have to keep re-pulling the trigger to get more glue out of the gun. Overall I do not like Teresa Munn's work and I will most likely not be doing it in my exam as there isn't much to elaborate with and it will be difficult to give it my own twist.



The blocks of stone I will use for my final design are 21.5cm x 10cm x 44cm. They will however be smaller after they have been cut down to smooth off the edges.

This is a test piece of the stone that I will be using to make my final piece . I've just carved a zig zag pattern onto the surface of the stone to give an idea of how well the stone will carve using the chisels. As you can see the block has many holes in it which makes it very easy to carve away at. I feel that this is a good material to use for a final piece.



# Two Day Exam

Evaluation

# The final piece

[insert pictures here]

## How did I come up with a final design?

- To start of with I looked at different artists work to try and get some inspiration as to what I would like to make. The artist that I liked the most was Gary Breeze. I like him as his designs weren't just a message on a flat piece of paper like many others where but he would incorporate different ideas into his work. For example, his bench with messages carved round the outside or the 50p coin that he made a design for with a visual message about world war two on it.
- Once I decided what artists style I would like to base my design off I then needed to think about what I actually wanted to make. To do this I made several test pieces that had an element of Breeze's work.
- I mostly used wood as that is what he used for his bench design which I liked the most out of all of his pieces that I had seen. I tried laser cutting an out line onto wood at first just to see how it turned out and what it looked like. I decided that although this looked good I could do more with it than just have an out line.
- So I laser printed another piece but this time I filled in the out line with a soldering iron so that it wasn't just an outline but the whole message was burnt and it was more bold. However, it was difficult to control the iron and I didn't like how it looked when it was done.
- I tested with different methods until I found one that I liked and that was carving out the message using chisels. I first tried this method using wood and carving out an outline. This worked well but the wood was difficult to carve as it was hard.
- I then had the idea of using stone breeze blocks as they would be easier to carve into. I also decided that I wanted to make my own bench as I felt there is lots of room top add my own aspects of design to the piece.
- So I made a sketch-up design of a bench and decided what I wanted my message to be. Which was my date of birth and the birth years of my parents all in roman numerals. This way it is personal to me and the roman numerals would make it seem as though it was an ancient piece of art and that the date were significant.

## How did I make it?

- Once I had decided where all of the dates were going to go on the stone block I sent my messages (the dates in roman numerals) to my teacher so that he could laser print them out.
- As I was using a whole block of stone we found out that I was too big and wouldn't fit in the laser printer. So instead we got an A3 sheet of paper and laser cut the design onto there and used it as a stencil.
- I placed the stencil onto the correct sides of the stone and got a black whiteboard marker and coloured in the stencil so that when I took it away the design was left on the stone ready for me to carve away at.
- To carve out the design I had just drew on I used two different chisels, one bigger chisel for going round the outside and a smaller chisel for the smaller more detailed bits of the
- I found that the best way to carve out the roman numerals was to first, get the larger chisel and gently indent round the whiteboard marker so that there was a clear outline now of the shape. This way I had a kind of barrier to stop me from going out of the lines.
- Then I would get the smaller chisel and carve away at the black lettering until no more whiteboard marker could be seen. This first stage of the carving was only shallow as it was just to mark out the letters.
- After that, with the small chisel still, I just kept carving over what I had just carved out until it got to about 1cm deep. I felt that this was an appropriate depth.
- I then repeated this process for all three sides of the stone.

## What went well, what was difficult?

- My outline that was in whiteboard marker was very clear and made it helpful as I knew exactly where to carve and where not to.
- The stone that I used was also quite good. The main reason being that it was extremely easy to carve into as the block was solid but it also would crumble away with light scratching.
- The chisels that I decided to use were good as they were the right sizes for the most part however it would have been nicer to have had a smaller one for when the spaces got tight like in certain letters (M, V and X) where the direction of the line changes it was quite common for small pieces of stone to get broken off as there wasn't much room and the longer part of the chisel would push against these thin bits of stone and get broken off
- The longer side with a full date on is what I feel was the best side. This is as I had more room to work with and none of the letters were cramped together. Unlike on the two shorter sides where some of the letters were close together and pieces of stone that I didn't want to would break off.
- Another thing that wasn't difficult but made the process harder was the state that the stone naturally had. For example, there were some big holes that were already in the rock that were right in the way of where I was carving so as a result of this some letters don't look as good as the others.
- I also like my addition of a sheet of wood that went on top. I painted it black so that it gave some contrast to the block of stone and felt this gives it a good final look.

## Does it answer my exam question title?

- My exam title that I chose was 'Messages'. I looked at several artists who came under this title of design and decided to base my work off one of these artists.
- I would say that yes my final design and piece does answer my exam title.
- The main reason for this is that a lot of these artists use different languages to write in so that some sort of translating has to be done for to read what the writing says. I liked this idea so I decided to do the same thing with my design and instead of writing the dates in normal numbers I converted them into roman numerals. I did this for two reasons;
- The first reason being so that there was some form of translating to be done to be able to read what I had carved into the stone.
- The second reason being that lots of old and ancient pieces of architecture and art would've had roman numeral carved onto them. This being as it would've of had some unique reason to the designer or it could be when it was built but either way it was placed there as a message for people to read and understand a little bit more about the design/piece that they are looking at.