



Project Name: Whitworth Art Gallery

Client: The University of Manchester

Completion Date: March 2021

Products: Bespoke timber & concrete bench with stainless steel armrests

The Whitworth Art Gallery is located in Whitworth Park and is part of the University of Manchester. It contains over 55,000 objects of visual culture in its collection. The gallery was established in 1887 by the local industrialist Sir Joseph Whitworth.

Bailey Streetscene was asked to supply seating for the main external entrance to the gallery. Many designs were considered for the location as the client, Manchester University, wanted the seating to feel traditional against the backdrop of the 100-year-old building; it also had to fit in with other products that were part of the University's campus theme.

The final design was a combination of chamfered hardwood timber slats running vertically along granite legs with a light grey colour finish. Stainless steel armrests were included to assist with rising, and a slightly angled timber backrest was applied to one side. The backrest also has a plaque to thank the people who raised the funds for the benches. The seating has become a popular addition to the sculpture park at the front of the gallery, allowing visitors of all ages the space to sit, rest, and reflect.

Have something similar in mind for a future project?

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