

**Project:** SCULPTURE AT BERMONDSEY SQUARE

**Date:** January 2014

**Location:** Bermondsey Square, London

**Designer:** Frances Richardson

**Contact:** frances.richardson@virgin.net

**Description:** 'Loss of object and bondage to it', is a sculpture by London-based artist Frances Richardson, whose proposal was selected from applications to VITRINE's open call. Richardson's sculptural practice is an inquiry into the relationship between embodied cognition of architecture and human agency.

In January 2014, Frances Richardson began working with Concrete Canvas® GCCM\* (CC) as the material of choice for the 'Sculpture at Bermondsey Square' project.

The sculpture was a development of work made during a studio residency at Lubomirov-Easton in Deptford, London. In this work, Richardson constructed MDF supports to hold what appeared to be a draped fabric form. However, on closer inspection, the drape was found to be made of concrete canvas, a flexible concrete impregnated fabric that hardens on hydration to form a thin, concrete layer. What appeared to be a relationship between a hard frame holding a soft drape was in fact a mutually-supportive relationship, with the draped forms providing strength and balance to the overall structure.

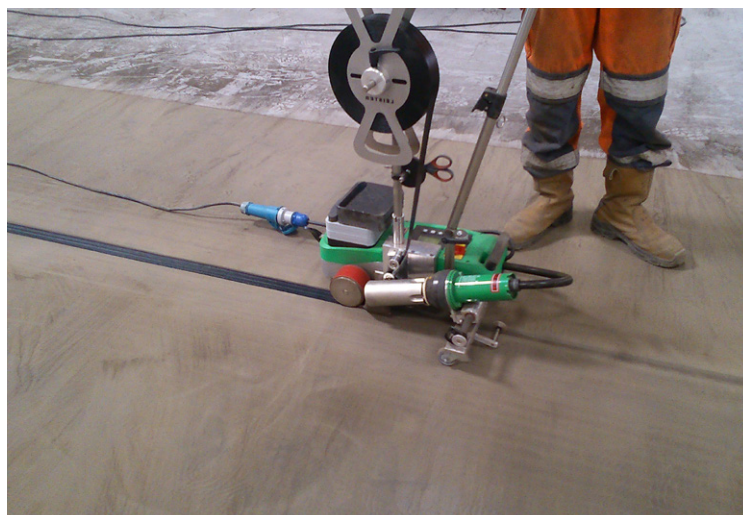
Frances used a total of approximately 12m<sup>2</sup> to produce the sculpture, using CC8™. It took around 6 months to produce the sculpture, which was a commission funded by the Arts Council England, Bermondsey Square Community Fund, Ideas Tap and Team London Bridge, with partnerships from PSC, Art Review and Elephant Magazine.

On Tuesday 30th May, it was announced that Frances had won the Solo Award for 2017, presented by Chiara Williams Contemporary Art. Frances' Award also came with a cash prize and a solo exhibition at the London Art Fair in 2018, which will be sponsored by Concrete Canvas Ltd., allowing Frances to produce more work with CC for the exhibition.









Frances has also previously used CC in a sculptural installation at Concrete Canvas Ltd.'s HQ. The sculpture for the HQ was very similar to Frances' commissioned work for Bermondsey Square, with the finished sculpture looking like a piece of draped fabric cascading over the side of the building. However, it is in fact a two thermally bonded lengths of CC, draped, hydrated and set, and therefore rock solid.

Frances started by measuring and cutting the lengths of the CC material that she required. It was then laid on the floor of one of the Concrete Canvas warehouses, where it was thermally bonded by one of the company's engineers to fix the lengths together and make a wider sheet of CC for Frances to work with. The CC was then transported using a forklift truck to the installation site, where it was lifted to the roof of the building and positioned. The CC was then draped by Frances and thoroughly hydrated when in position using a hose pipe and on-site water mains. 24 hours later the material was around 80% set, and rock solid.

***"It was fantastic to make a work on-site at the at the company's Trefforest HQ and explore the visual potential of using Concrete Canvas on an architectural scale. A big thank you to CC for their continuing support and material for new work to be featured in the SOLO Award exhibition, at the London Art Fair, which will be held at the Business Design Center in Islington, London, in January 2018."***

*Frances Richardson*



Frances Richardson's  
exhibition for the SOLO  
Awards

