

Introduction to the unfolding journey of the new site-specific sculpture project.

I have put forward a current project proposal for a site-specific sculpture to be located in East Yorkshire to the local Council on 6th November. Over the coming months I hope to be moving forward with this project (**Covid19 could potentially slow down the progress.**) No budget has yet been agreed.

Once potential funding is finalised and any other issues have been teased out and resolved with both council and myself, I will aim to proceed with overseeing the intention of my sculpture design. With Council support I hope to link up with local businesses, industry, Architect and Project Manager.

During this development, all the creative problem solving will take place at Luna Studio 47 and local industry. I will be keeping a visual and annotated recorded diary of this journey as the project unfolds, **so watch this space!**

My first instalment of this journey will be to make an analysis of the site location for the East Yorkshire Site-Specific Hospital Memorial Sculpture.

Note: Review of site location took place on Tuesday 11th August 2020.

Analysis of the site location is an essential part of the process when developing ideas for a public site-specific Sculpture.



Site-Specific Location for the East Yorkshire Hospital Memorial Sculpture.

I have proceeded to move forward with building a knowledge and understanding of the site-specific location for an intended memorial sculpture.

I will be looking at very important factors which will have a bearing on the material makeup of this sculpture design. I will be developing a sculpture design that visually stands out from its surrounding location. **This site-specific sculpture must be a visual beacon of hope for all to see.** Following on from this, I will need to consider the potential size of the sculpture, its visual presence in relation to the location, public access for both able and those with compromised mobility. Careful consideration has to be given to public health and safety requirements to ensure this sculpture design is not a risk to the public when sited at its intended location.

As a starting point I have taken numerous photographs of the site-specific location – from different viewpoints showing different facets of the make-up of the environment.

The overall appearance of the site is both flat and expansive and is away from closely populated areas (the site location is consecrated ground.) The location consists of flat local fields, trees, foliage which helps to support natural habitats, farmland, hedge groves and an expanse of open sky with hardly any over casting shadows of nearby trees/structures. This offers greater access to natural day light which is essential to the success of my potential sculpture design. It should be further noted, there are man-made material factors that help to make up this environment i.e. brick, concrete, steel and tarmac. There is a wide tarmac path/road with public benches running central to the full length of the site location. Away from the central path is a small brick structure which will have no impact on the official site-specific location (opening up further opportunities in terms of ideas.) I didn't observe any artificial night lighting i.e. overhead lighting, wall lighting, up-lighting.

The site location offers no obvious health and safety concerns although the widening of the central path is designed for motor vehicle access, pedestrians and those using mobility aids of transport.

The possible sculpture concept I have in mind will be sited central on a concrete/slabbed 24ft square base, flush with existing flat grass surrounds. There will be a minimum of 7ft access, circulating 180 degrees around the sculpture which will ensure safe public access for all.

The intended height of the sculpture will be 12ft, occupying a maximum circular surface area of 10ft. The realization of the idea for this public memorial site-specific sculpture cannot be made possible without working alongside local businesses and industry.

Drawing on my past experience I would proceed as follows:

The first stage would be to liaise with an Architect (experienced in the support of public art and the regulated standards) to review my public sculpture design. We would need to ensure that the structural integrity of the sculpture, proposed material make-up, suitable platform for the sculpture complies with all regulations and health and safety standards. In the event of problems, both the Architect and myself would sit down and find solutions which aim to resolve and hopefully not compromise my artistic intention of the sculpture design.

Note: I am consistently aware that when pushing the design envelope, you sometimes need to compromise and take on board alternative solutions, certainly when it comes to health and safety. Ultimately, the artist will always strive to be creatively in control of the design intention.

Once there is a concrete solution with the Sculpture design, the Architect will draw up formal plans for both the sculpture platform and parts to be fabricated. The Architect will provide a formal plan and outlined specification of products, materials, quantities, sizes (custom parts

to be made). This information will then be forwarded to all appointed local industry to provide materials and manufacture parts for the sculpture. I will liaise with those appointed and oversee the work being fabricated.

A Project Manager is further appointed to safely monitor, control and bring realisation to the sculpture project outcome. This role will involve managing the preparation of the groundwork for site-specific location and assembly/installation of memorial sculpture (I will be overseeing this process) based on the assigned plans agreed by both Architect and myself.

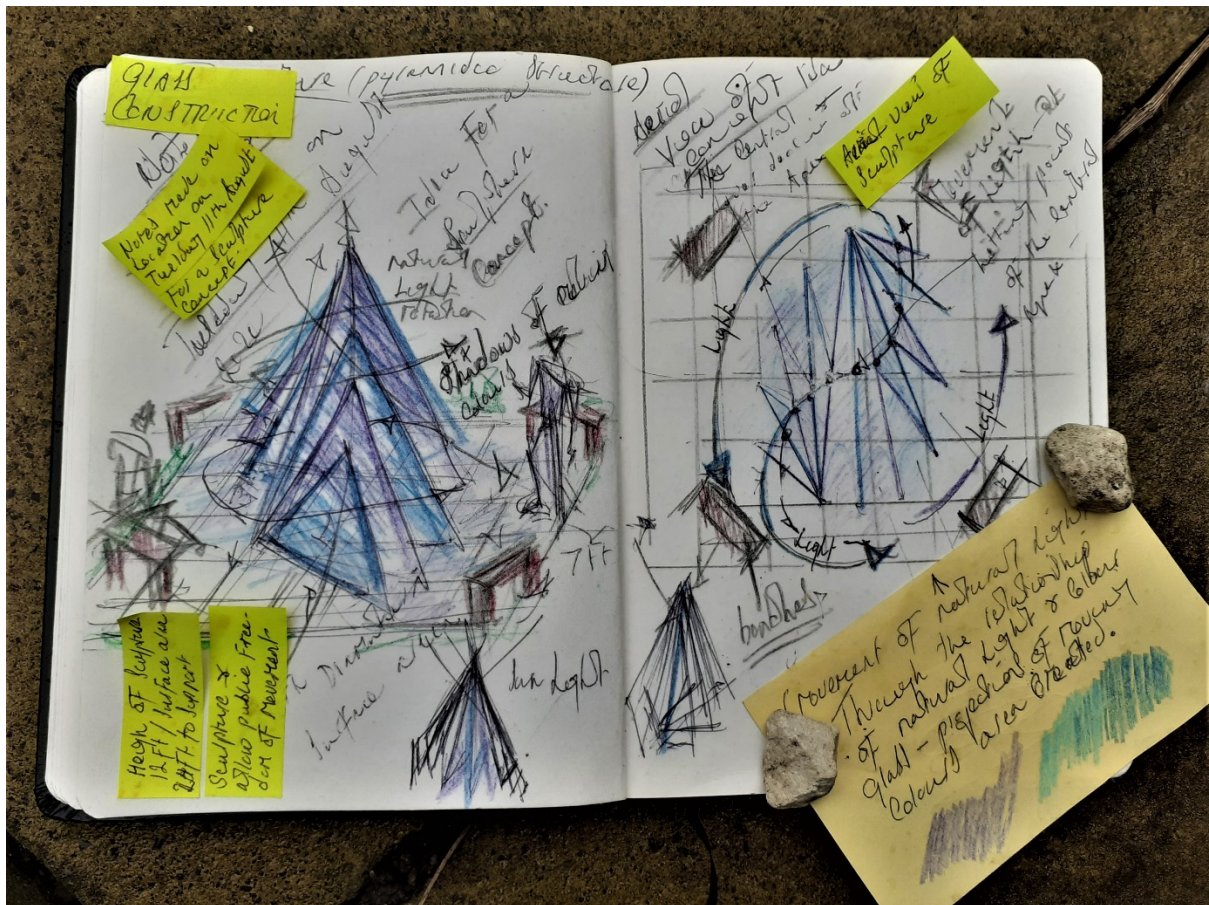


Image shows rough sketches and notes done on the day, outlining the potential sculpture to be sited.

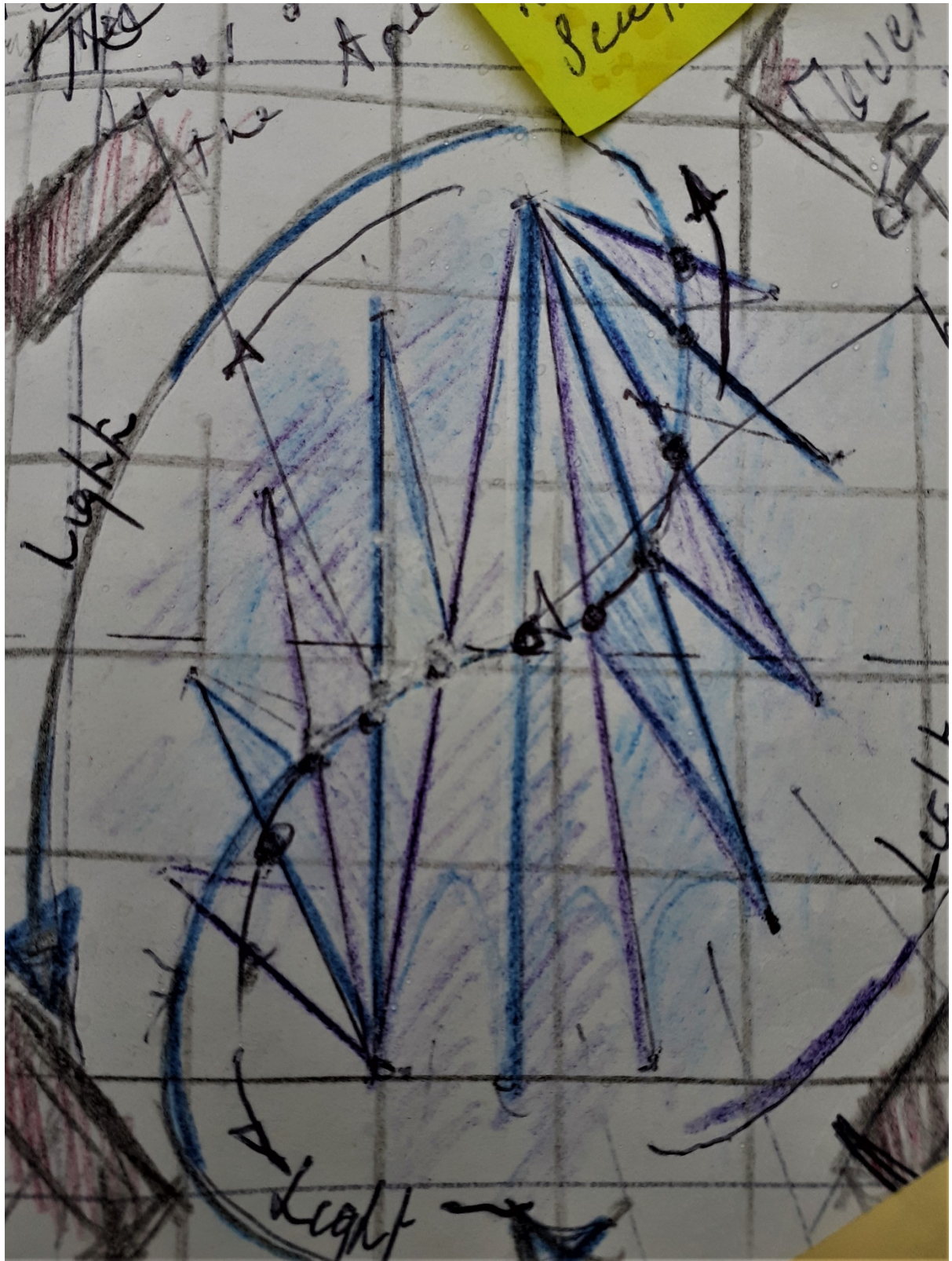


Image shows rough sketch and notes done on the day, outlining the potential sculpture to be sited.

The Existing Memorial Stone within Site Location





Surrounding Site Location



Surrounding Site Location



Surrounding Site Location



Surrounding Site Location



Surrounding Site Location



Surrounding Site Location

My Second instalment of this journey is: The proposed design for the East Yorkshire council for a Site-Specific Memorial sculpture (It should be noted that the height of the sculpture is still being negotiated.)

Notes: revised proposal approved on Friday, 6th November 2020

Aesthetic intention for a proposed idea for the Memorial Sculpture.

I have been invited to look into the possibility of designing a site-specific memorial sculpture for an assigned location in East Yorkshire. As a new member of this community and through personal early life experience, I feel a strong empathy with the poignant history of this Hospital institution.

After discovering the emotive history, I soon made personal parallels with my own early infancy years in Southern Ireland. This became the ultimate motivating factor for me to explore a possible site-specific memorial sculpture solution, which would acknowledge this poignant history of the institutionalised women and children of this East Yorkshire Hospital.

Through dialogue with various members of the local community, I learned of the various cases of women who were essentially institutionalised due to having children outside of wedlock. This also included women and children with both physical and learning difficulties. In most cases, the residents of the Hospital suffered rapid decline to their mental health due to institutionalisation. The full impact of this would later be recognised and acknowledged. Many of these women and children were tragically known as *'The forgotten residents' by R. Barker. Many of the residents who have passed away have gone unnoticed (are unknown), buried in unmarked graves, abandoned by society.*

It is also fair to acknowledge that I have subsequently learned that many of these institutionalised women and children were well supported by the hard-working employees and volunteers.

In today's society, mental health is so prevalent and universally acknowledged. The topic is no longer taboo and society moves more confidently and sympathetically towards embracing and celebrating the importance of mental health support. It is because of this I wish to turn this East Yorkshire Hospital legacy into a sculpture which aims to memorialise these forgotten women and children. It is my desire that the sculpture will serve as an instrument, a tool to positively assist and aid in mental healing to the community of today and for future generations.

The abstract nature of the sculptural form as seen in the images below (**intended height would have been 12ft, but on request it will be reduced to 8ft still to be negotiated**) is inspired by church spires (a visual beacon.) It will be sited on consecrated ground but will have a strong secular perspective on religion to ensure it is inclusive to all members of the community. The sculpture will be made of industrial, standard coloured safety glass, the essence will embody a symbiotic relationship made up of three elements to create the whole.

- The site-specific sculpture material makeup will be coloured safety glass.
- The material will have symbiotic relationship with the natural element of light.
- The observers personal experience of the entire sculpture will arrive at an intention of bringing the observer to a spiritual, metaphysical awakening.

Through this symbiotic relationship, the sculpture elevates the human spirit. Due to the changes in natural light, the sculpture gives the illusion of movement and further gives an ephemeral experience due to the unpredictable changing appearance reminding us of the fragility of life and the human condition. The scattering of harmonic colours of light throughout the construction is designed to almost dematerialise the sculptural appearance,

further evoking an even greater spiritual experience for the observer. Any members of the local community can come sit, find peace and solitude in its presence and as such, the sculpture becomes a tool to enhance contemplation, aiding mental healing in the process and lifting the human spirit.



Design proposal by East Yorkshire Council for the Hospital Memorial Sculpture 2020.



**Design proposal by East Yorkshire Council for the Hospital Memorial Sculpture
2020.**

My third instalment of this journey is:

- making an amended maquette mock-up of the sculpture (due to size)
- liaise with an Architect (once agreed by Council) to discuss and review my public sculpture design
- To ensure the structural integrity of the sculpture, proposed material make-up, suitable platform for the sculpture to be formally sited complies with all regulation and health and safety standards
- The Architect would then be required to draw up formal plans for both the sculpture platform and parts to be fabricated
- The Architect would provide a formal plan and outlined specification of products, materials, quantities, sizes (custom parts to be made) and costing

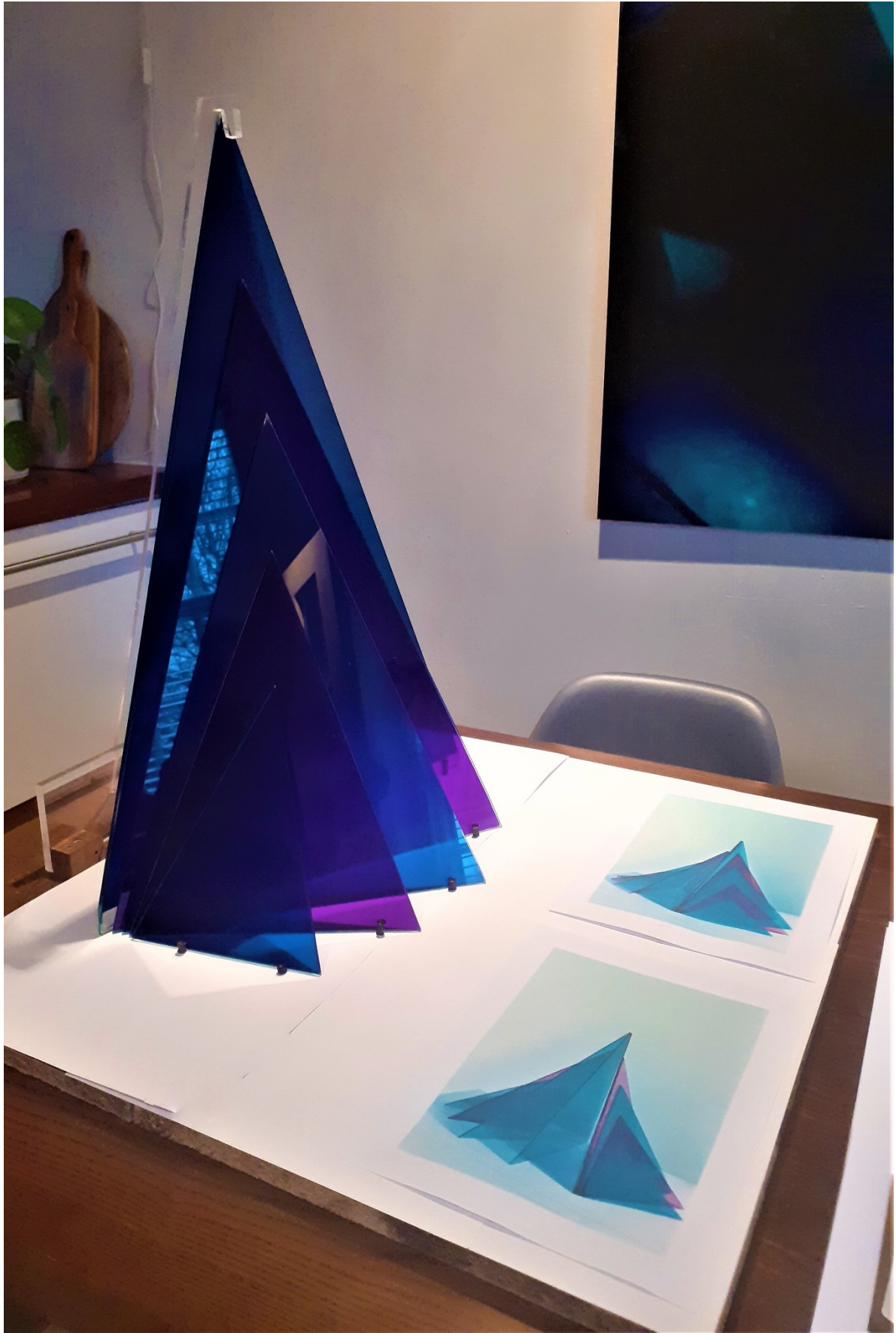
Notes:



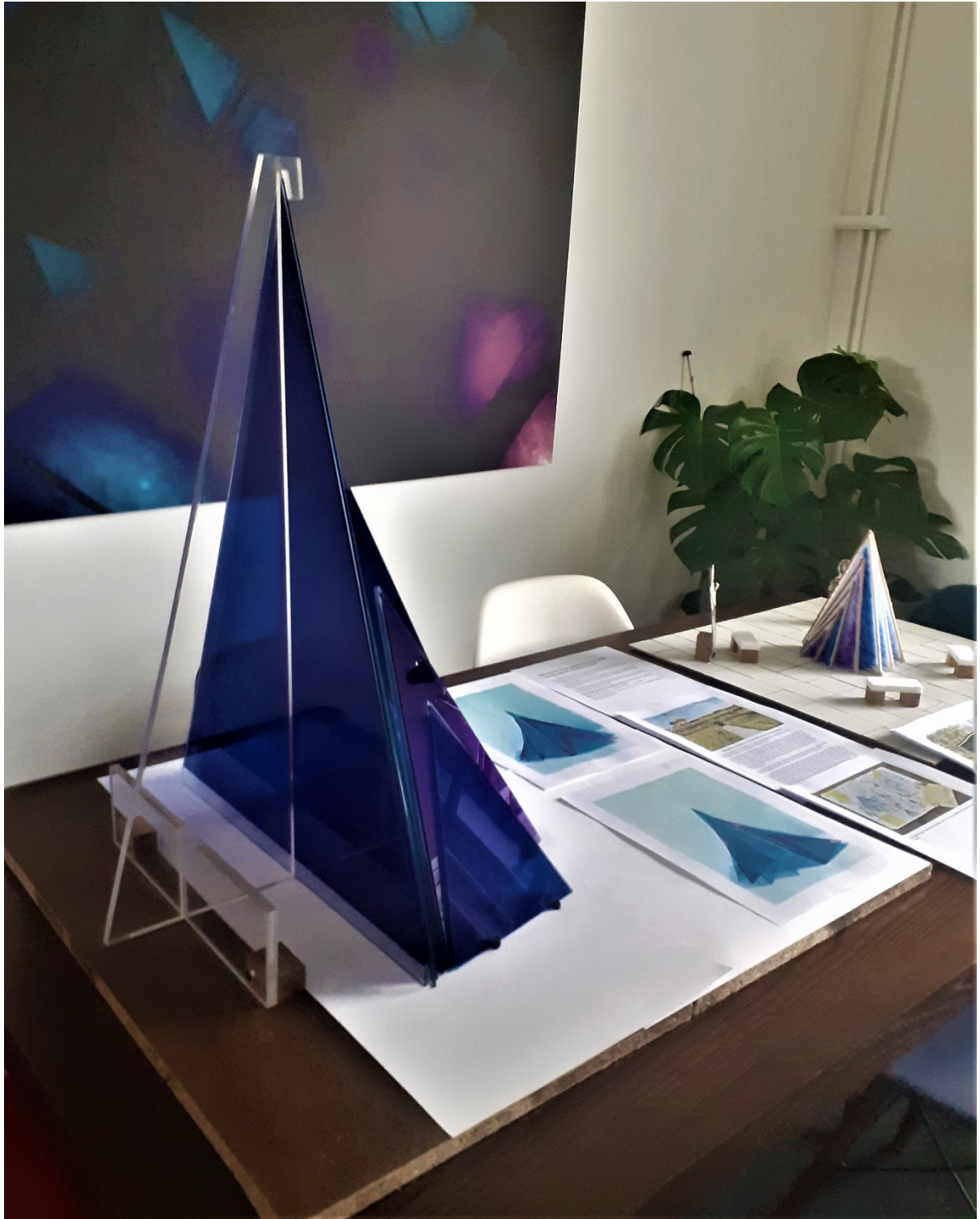
Scaled Drawing in Three-Dimensional Space 1.



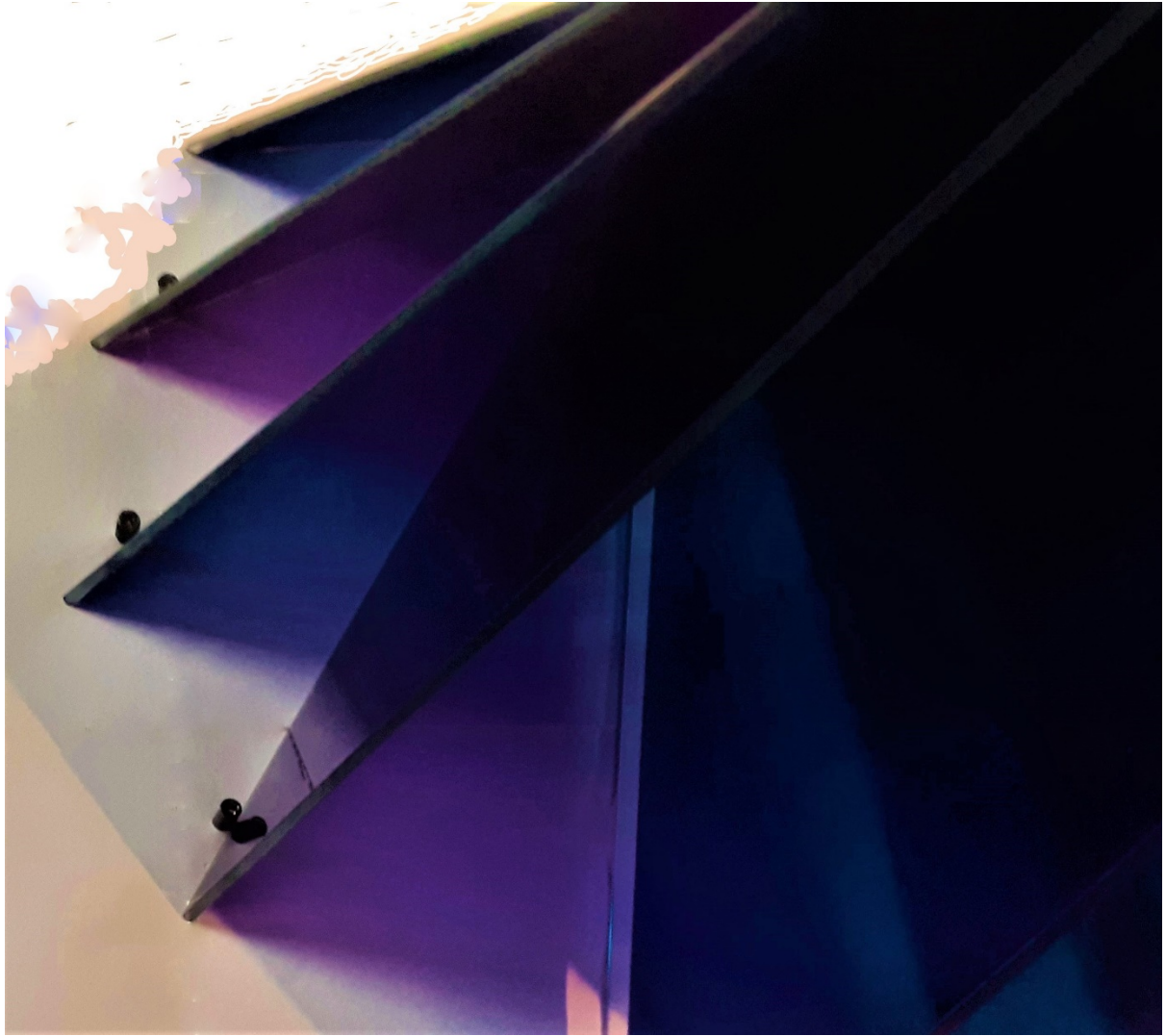
Scaled Drawing in Three-Dimensional Space 2.



Glass Maquette Section of the Sculpture Design 3.



Glass Maquette Section of the Sculpture Design 4.



Glass Maquette Section of the Sculpture Design 5.