

Weekend Wonder: We Made It! Saturday 4 April – Sunday 5 April 2020

Welcome to Weekend Wonder: We Made It! ... sharing our heritage from Bruce Castle Museum & Archive.

This weekend's post shares the inspirational. For those who are missing visiting the exhibitions at Bruce Castle, here are a couple of views of the galleries showing our current *We Made It!* exhibition, saluting past and present creators and innovators from our BAME communities in Haringey. Our exhibition draws on our museum and archive collections at Bruce Castle, celebrating recent artistic excellence alongside emerging talent and works of internationally and nationally renowned artists from the borough.

Today we will focus on one artist from our collection and exhibition – and in future posts we will feature others too.



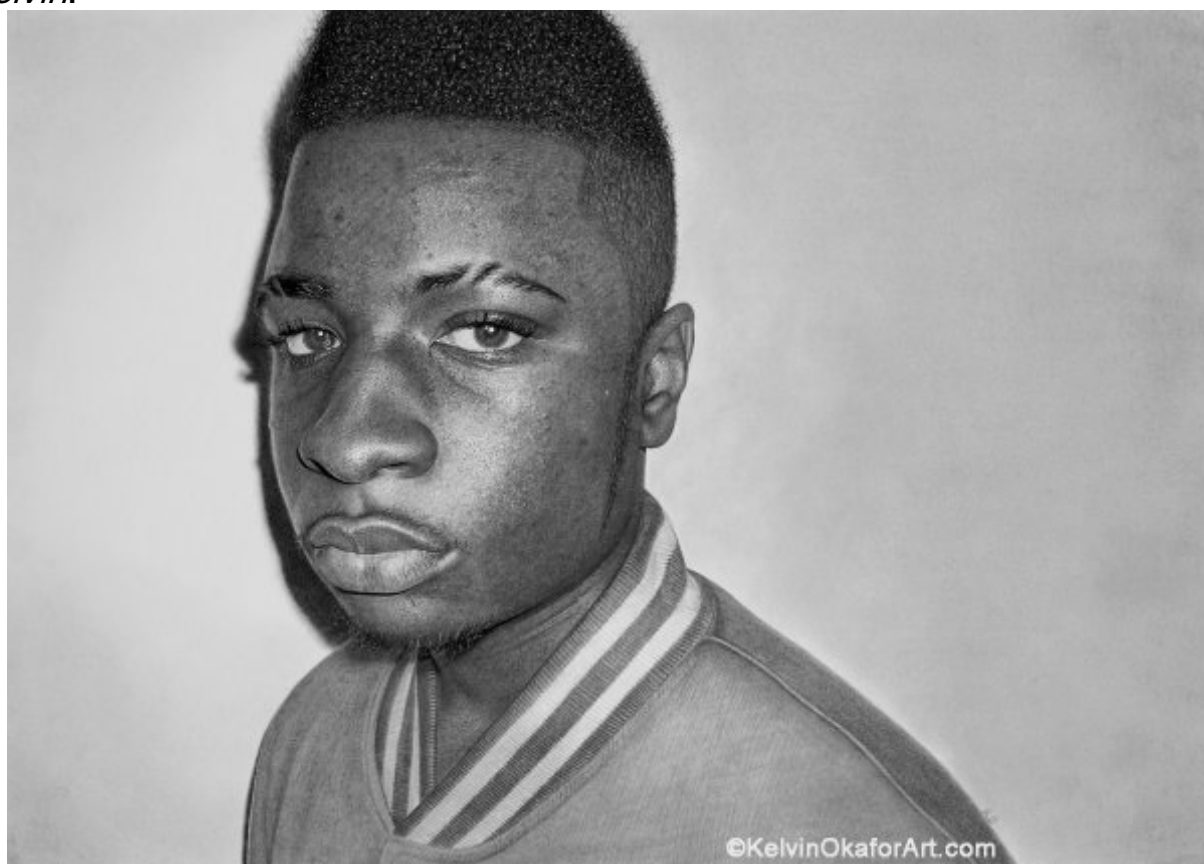
Images above © Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Archive and Museum Service)

Today's artist in focus from this exhibition and our collections is **Kelvin Okafor from Tottenham**. He first came to prominence in about 2012, when he had finished his Fine Art degree at Middlesex University. He was also at that time a volunteer at Bruce Castle Museum for our Cultural Olympiad [PARK ART](#) sculpture installation and exhibition during the London 2012 Olympic Games, where his role was to engage with visitors to help them enjoy the great sculptural Lion exhibit (by Ben Long) on the museum lawns.

We will always remember Kelvin being very characteristically modest when showing us his extraordinary portraits to us – his work is so exquisite, we knew he would go far.

Kelvin's exceptional portraits in pencil and his artistic journey in creating them is best told in his own words by looking at his [website](#) and the video interviews shown there.

Although his artwork is much sought-after, Kelvin has never forgotten his roots in Tottenham and his university. He is still a friend to Bruce Castle and we were very touched when out-of-the blue he came back to the museum – and also to his school in Tottenham – to kindly give each institution a print of one of his drawings – *Melvin*.



From the collections of Bruce Castle Museum & Archive
© Kelvin Okafor

We have also been delighted to be able to have on loan in the past another of his original portraits in pencil for two separate exhibitions at Bruce Castle as well – his interpretation (as seen in the second photograph above) of '*King Balthazar*', the name of one of the traditional Three Kings (or Magi) in the Gospel of Matthew

in the Bible. If you would like to see the 'evolution', i.e. the step by step drawing of '[Balthazar](#)' by Kelvin, then just click on the link.

If you would like to see how '*Melvin*' was drawn too by Kelvin – and it is quite a wonder to behold – do look at this link [here](#).

And similarly, for another work by Kelvin (not in our collection), about how he drew '*Mana*', see also the link [here](#). You can keep up-to-date with Kelvin's current work on his Facebook page or website.

Although, we may not ourselves have Kelvin's extraordinary talent, we all have an artist in us – so why not try some art whilst at home and have a go?

Keep well, stay safe at home.

Best wishes

From all at Bruce Castle Museum

Deborah Hedgecock
Curator

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