

Art of the Water Gardens

Rock and Roll

The Hemel Hempstead Development Corporation commissioned Rock and Roll for the Water Gardens from the French sculptor, Hubert Yencesse. It was positioned in the lake as Jellicoe wanted the figures to appear as if they were 'dancing on the surface of the water'. The sculpture was described to Jellicoe 'as a youth dancing with a girl doing the rock n' roll. They have reached the particular point in this dance when the girl is at full stretch of both her and his arms, and the girl is either about to be 'wound in' or has reached the limit of being 'thrown out'. (G. Hindley, letter 1960)



Discobolus: The Discus Thrower

The Discobolus is a copy of a 5th century Greek marble. It was purchased by the Hemel Hempstead Development Corporation at an auction in 1960 for Bank Court. Before that it stood in the driveway of Amersfoot, a country mansion in Potten End. The house was originally owned by a Mr Cohen who had a number of links with Africa, which is where the statue is thought to originate from. In 1997 it was moved into the Water Gardens to make way for the Waterplay sculpture, which replaced it in Bank Court.



Kangaroo, Joey and Platypus

Designed by the Australian sculptor, John Downie, the group was presented to the people of Hemel Hempstead by the New Town of Elizabeth, South Australia in November 1963, with the Development Chairman sending a gift of a copy of the Rock and Roll. It was moved from Albion Court to make way for the Marlowes Shopping Centre and re-sited on Jellicoe's island.



Sitting Girl

The Sitting Girl by Sidney Harpley, was relocated from Highfield to the Water Gardens. Its current whereabouts are unknown.