

23 April 2009

EVANS CONCRETE NOW MAKING DREAM A REALITY

The final piece of *Dream*, a 20 metre high sculpture created by Ripley based bespoke precast concrete specialist, Evans Concrete, has been lifted into place, creating a highly prestigious piece of public art for St.Helens.

Designed by world renowned artist, Jaume Plensa, *Dream* is fabricated entirely from precast concrete and takes the form of a head of a girl with her eyes closed, seemingly in a dream-like state. It stands on the former Sutton Manor Colliery in St.Helens, overlooking the M62, and is a landmark feature for the North West, symbolising regeneration in the region. It has been commissioned by St.Helens Council as part of The Big Art Project, an ambitious public art initiative from Channel 4 supported by Arts Council England and The Art Fund, the UK's leading independent art charity.

Evans has used Spanish Dolomite mix to give *Dream* a glowing white finish in contrast to the black coal below. Specialist moulds have been created to give the sculpture a smooth, quality finish.

Dream has been cast at Evans's facility and has then been transported by road to St.Helens where it has been installed on site. The whole process from concept through to manufacture and installation has been captured by Channel 4, who have been filming at Evans's facility. It will feature in the Big Art series on Channel 4 which starts on 10 May.

Garry McBride, chairman of Evans Concrete, said: "This is probably the finest achievement in Evans Concrete's history. To design and manufacture 94 individual pieces of concrete and then to witness the final piece being installed has to be one of the highlights of my professional career. The skill and attention to detail that we have shown on this project has been outstanding and we have created an iconic sculpture which will remain as a permanent showcase to our skills and tradition."

Other companies involved in *Dream* include Arup as lead consultants, Cheetham Hill Construction as principal contractors, manufacturers and suppliers of specialist moulds Cordek and specialist installers of concrete products ICP.

Ends

Notes to editors

- The Big Art Project in St.Helens is being delivered by St.Helens Council, in partnership with the national funders.
- The Big Art Project began filming in 2005 when people across the country were invited to nominate sites they felt would benefit from an art installation. More than 1,400 nominations were received and seven sites were selected across the UK: Beckton, Belfast, Burnley, Cardigan, the Isle of Mull, Sheffield and St.Helens.
- For the past three years the Big Art Project has been working with communities in these seven locations, with each site offering a unique story which is being filmed for Channel 4's series.
- The Big Art Project is supported by Arts Council England, the national development agency for the arts, and The Art Fund, the UK's leading independent art charity. It seeks to inspire and create new works of public art, commissioned by communities, as well as debating the importance of art in the built environment.
- A focus group comprising ex-miners from Sutton Manor has played a pivotal role in the whole development of the project, which is being curated by Liverpool Biennial and is supported by the Forestry Commission and the Northwest Coalfield Communities Regeneration Programme.