



DETAILS
Gold 24 carat, Bronze
3400 mm H
2011



Moving Forwards, Looking Back, 2011

IN SEEKING EMBLEMS FOR A SCULPTURE FOR IONA COLLEGE, THE SCOTTISH ISLE OF IONA

was a difficult place to find specific symbols because of its history of being under continual attack.

It was the site of the making of the Book of Kells (now held in Dublin), so has a rich background of Celtic patterning and script.

A “gateway” concept was chosen, recognising the freestanding stone crosses at Iona, but also as a narration of the transition from childhood to adulthood. The bronze columns are simple in shape yet modelled with detail; one with decorations from the Old North, patterning of interlacing geese referenced from the Book of Kells that one could fancy would also make their migratory voyage to the Antipodean South. The other column is devoted to New Zealand,

with pictorial references to the local kōwhaiwhai patterns, grapes of the Hawke's Bay vineyards and a sailing boat under the Southern Cross.

Indents made partway up the columns create the silhouetted configuration of a cross and the figure steps out between these columns. She is a slim semi-relief figure with a confident stride. There is a slight swing of the skirt of her schoolgirl dress and her hair flicks up partly at the back by her movement. She is a young woman moving forward, without hesitation, making her way with confidence.

FUN FACTS

The halo above the girl was the first time the artist used gold sheet applied to bronze. The pattern work on the cross gateway is divided into two.

On one side is the Celtic design of repeating geese, and on the other are emblems of the Hawke's Bay area where the school is located. The artist visited church yards around Scotland to resolve the form of the cross structure.



*A series of small models of the girl figure
were made by Dibble for the school, and small pins
by a designer for wearing on lapels.*

