



The Incisive Letterwork Partnership was formed in 1988

Brenda Berman and Annet Stirling first met at the City & Guilds of London Art School where they studied lettering with Berthold Wolpe. BB had previously trained as a painter at Bath Academy of Art, Corsham and AS as a graphic designer at AKI Enschede, Holland .

They have undertaken all sorts of lettering commissions but specialise in large scale architectural work and word sculpture.

A selected list of works of the last 10 years appears below

- 2014 **SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL OXFORD** fascia carving Thatcher Business Education Centre
- 2013 **SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL OXFORD** opening inscription in situ at new building
- 2012 **NOOR INIYAT KAHN** plinth in Gordon Square London
- 2011 **EXETER RAMM MUSEUM** fascia inscription to the new extension of the museum
- 2011 **EXETER CATHEDRAL GREEN** – 10 carved texts in the pavement at the entrances to the Green
- 2011 **CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW** - 3 stones in the Cancer Research Garden
- 2010 **KOLN GERMANY** memorial stone to architect O.M.Ungers
- 2009 **STOBHILL PARK GLASGOW** - carved benches and wild stones with circle poems in collaboration with Platform Projects (Alec Finlay) and Tom Clark
- 2008 **ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS** – donor stone and benches in courtyard
- 2007 **ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL** - Re-opening stone for visit of Her Majesty the Queen
- 2007 **ROYAL OPERA HOUSE** - Replacement slate Bow Street Entrance
- 2007 **St. PETER LIMPSFIELD** - Slate plaque in collaboration with John Hayward
- 2006 **ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL** – memorial stone to Roger de Grey PRA
- 2006 **SANKT BIRGITTA KLOSTER DENMARK** – commemorative stone for new building
- 2006 **SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD** – New slate inscriptions for the courtyard
- 2005 **SCHOOL OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES** – Design of metal title over the main entrance and Princess Royal Opening stone carved in Portland stone
- 2004/5 **NATIONAL GALLERY** – Portico carving of title, Getty inscription over the Getty Entrance, donor stones in Main Entrance, Annenberg Court plaster in the East Wing

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2007 - **2014Bucks Open Studios** Annual Event
- 2005 **Heavens Above.** Morley Gallery London
- 2001 **The ground beneath our feet.** Vardy Art Gallery Sunderland
- 2000 **The ground beneath our feet.** Morley Gallery London

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS in the last 10 years

- 2014 **Mompesson House**, mixed works exhibition through the house, Salisbury
- 2013/14 **Letter Exchange exhibition '26 Words'** – Free word Centre London and Travelling
- 2012/13 **Letter Exchange exhibition Words Set Free** – Free Word Centre London and travelling
- 2011/12 **Evolution: Frink and the next generation**, Bournemouth University
- 2011/12 **Signs for Sounds**, travelling exhibition curated by Jeremy Theophilus
- 2011 **Fresh Air** Quenington
- 2010 **Grammar and Heather**, the Beetroot Tree Gallery, Draycott
- 2009 **Art & Memory**, West Dean Gardens Chichester
- 2009 **Fresh Air** Quenington
- 2008 **Living Language**, East Gallery, Stratford
- 2008 **Henley Festival**, Henley on Thames
- 2007 **Henley Festival**, Henley on Thames
- 2007 **Mill Dene Garden**, Blockley Gloucestershire
- 2007 **Art Space**, Barn Galleries Henley on Thames
- 2005 **The Standing Stone.** Wolseley Fine Arts London

#### Artists Statement

Brenda Berman and Annet Stirling formed Incisive Letterwork in 1988. They first met at the City and Guilds of London Art School where they studied lettering with Berthold Wolpe. Brenda Berman had previously trained as a painter at Bath Academy of Art, Corsham, and Annet Stirling as a graphic designer at the AKI Enschede, Holland.

Like most letter-cutters they were trained in the drawing of specific alphabets for carving. These are usually historical, based on Roman capitals with Renaissance-influenced lower case and italic. Incisive Letterwork's formal work includes large architectural inscriptions, opening plaques and headstones.

Through the physical experiences of carving another approach to lettering also revealed itself. Gombrich has said that there are only two currents in the history of Western Art, the classical and the anti-classical. Incisive Letterwork has found itself swimming in both. The physical aspect of working with raw stone and the exploration of the marks that tools can make have influenced their designing and the way they carve. All this has led to a continuing love affair with a Dorset quarry where they have spent a considerable part of most years.

In 1996, with the help of a Churchill Fellowship, they travelled in Italy for three months looking at marble and Roman and Renaissance inscriptions.

They have exhibited in all recent major lettering exhibitions, had two solo shows and continue to explore the boundaries of legibility and abstraction in letterform. They were founder members of Letter Exchange. Brenda Berman has been in charge of the lecture programme. Annet Stirling was chairman of the organisation from 1994-1997 and currently is its treasurer.

Notable clients include: Baden State Library, British Museum, Colchester City Council, Dolby, Eastman Dental Hospital, Esso, Exeter Cathedral, Garrards, Glaxo, Granada with LDC, Hitachi, House of Commons, Kunsthalle Hamburg, National Portrait Gallery, National Gallery, Norwich Castle Museum, Oldham Museum, Royal Festival Hall, Royal Opera House, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, Said Business School Oxford, Exeter Cathedral, Exeter Royal Albert Memorial Museum.