



**Anthony D Padgett artist and sculptor of *Picasso's Guernica Dove* writes about his inspiration for his art. His pipe sculpture of a dove appears in Picasso's most famous picture *Guernica* is next to the *Plaque to the Basque Children* in *Town Quay Park, Southampton*.**



In 2019 I finished creating over 100 artworks looking at the work and life of Pablo Picasso [www.ayearwithpicasso.co.uk](http://www.ayearwithpicasso.co.uk). As a representative of the Artists Union England I attended a Trades Union Council meeting and learned of the work of the International Brigade Memorial Trust (IBMT). I sought to offer my skills as an artist and was interested in the creation of a sculptural memorial based around the *Guernica* painting. This painting was a protest against the 1937 blitz bombing, by the Nazis for General Franco, of civilians in the Basque town of Guernica. Much of Picasso's art is intellectual and one of the first censorships by fascist government is of art. As a means of controlling intellectual dissent. Picasso supported the Spanish Republican cause and in 1944 became a Communist and stood for Peace against war.

As a result he lost a lot of influence and acceptance in America and his later work was overlooked. He visited Sheffield, England, in 1950 as part of the World Peace Congress. Because of his connection to this and to the Spanish Republican cause I approached the IBMT and we formed a working group to site, in Sheffield, a key sculpture in a network of Picasso Peace Sculptures. Out of meetings with the IBMT working group I met with Simon Martinez of the Association for the Basque Children of the UK 1937 (BCA37UK) who kindly invited me to work on a sculpture for the Basque Children Memorial at Town Quay Park, Southampton.

Using the pipe style I created following "A Year with Picasso" I turned the screaming dove from Picasso's *Guernica* painting into a rectangular sculpture whose agony is frozen, perpetually contorted. The bird is a symbol of the innocent victims of the technological flying machines that brought their rain/reign of terror. The design is a ghost-like remnant, like a map of a town.

During the past years the IBMT Picasso Peace sculpture project has been progressing. I've also spent "A Year With Kurt Schwitters". Schwitters was a Dada artist who fled Nazi persecution and eventually settled in Ambleside. My sculpture of Schwitters is now permanently sited in the gardens of the Armitage Museum. This work continues as one of numerous projects that are part of an artistic strategy against oppression and inequality.

Anthony D Padgett  
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