



In The News

Upton Lovell

BULL'S TRIP TO A CHINA SHOP

By Victoria Ashford

A LIFESIZE sculpture of a bull is leaving a village near Warminster and heading on a 5,800-mile journey to Shanghai this week.

The 9ft long and 8ft high statue, estimated to be worth several thousand pounds, is travelling overseas on a four-week journey to Nanjing to be cast in bronze at a cheaper rate and then shipped back to England.

Sculptor Althea Wynne, 71, of Upton Lovell, near Warminster, has been working on the piece for a farmer in Cumbria since January.

She said: "I made seven little sketch models before he found one that he likes.

"It is probably my favourite piece that I have done so far. I will be interested to see what it looks like in bronze."

The model is based on the Greek legend of Europa. As the story goes, a lovely nymph was playing on a beach with her friends when Zeus, the chief of the Gods, spotted her.

In order to seduce her, he turned himself into a white bull and came out of the sea where the girls flirted with him and covered him with garlands.

Caught off-guard Europa accepted Zeus' offer of a ride, only for him to plunge back in to the sea and swim with Europa on his back to Crete where he seduced her.

Mrs Wynne, a grandmother-of-eight who is married to Antony Brown, said: "I always do classical themes and I like looking at the relationship between people and animals.

"It's worth as much as anyone is willing to pay for it. You can't put a price on art."

The sculpture is made of plaster on a core of polystyrene and the girl on his back is modelled in stoneware clay.

Mrs Wynne, who has lived in Upton Lovell for 12 years, has been training since the 1950s having completed her Master of Arts in Sculpture at London's Royal College.

As a member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, Mrs Wynne also heard about a foundry in Nanjing that was able to cast the sculpture in bronze for a third of British prices.

This is not the first piece created by the talented artist.

Mrs Wynne has also created three life-size bronze horses for the Prudential in London, as well as a 31ft high triple obelisk for a shopping centre in Dartford, Devon.

For more details and to see a gallery of her work, go online to www.althea-wynne-sculptor.com



Althea Wynne and her bull sculpture

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