

Street art suitable for skater attack

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London based artist Shaun Gladwell has created sculptures for Christchurch that skaters can use.

An Australian artist wants Christchurch skateboarders to vandalise his new sculpture.

Shaun Gladwell has installed three steel sculptures in Christchurch city centre that are designed for skateboarders to use.

The sculptures are based on forms you would find at a skateboard park, but appear to have been sliced into different parts.

"I hope they get scarred and scratched by skaters," he said.

"They are sculptures, but they have the potential to be skated. A couple of people jumped over the fence last night and had a go, which is great."

It is one of 11 temporary and two permanent public artworks installed in the city centre as part of the Scape Public Art festival that started yesterday and runs for six weeks.

The sculpture was inspired by a YouTube video made by Christchurch skateboarders soon after the February 2011 earthquake. The video showed skaters leaping over large cracks in the road and using bumps formed by liquefaction as makeshift ramps.

"I was thinking about this idea of broken forms. Everything in Christchurch is in some state of ruin or regeneration," Gladwell said.

Source: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/9220420/Street-artsuitable->