



During the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, did you stand on your doorstep and clap your appreciation for the NHS? Sculptor Rory Young did one better. As part of a £480,000 restoration project at Christchurch Priory, Dorset during the lockdown winter of 2020-21, Rory crafted a 22-inch by 17.5-inch masked-medic grotesque out of Lépine limestone from France.

Inspired by a photograph of architect Columba Cook's niece – a doctor working in the intensive care unit – it took Rory and a colleague about four weeks to carve. He first created a full-scale polystyrene model of the head, which he plans to sell. Five other grotesques and gargoyles that had become unrecognisable due to centuries of erosion have also been replaced with new offerings (a grotesque is a decorative stone carving, whereas a gargoyle acts as a spout to drain water away from the building). They include the former Christchurch mayor and burgess James Druitt; the Royal cypher in recognition of Queen Elizabeth II being the longest reigning English monarch; and a bespectacled Sir Donald Bailey, who designed the Bailey bridge during World War II. Rory created ten other grotesques and gargoyles on the Priory, including a mermaid, bat, ram and deer.



TIMED AUCTION | Saturday 9th July 2022

Rory Young's model of a Masked Medic

The polystyrene and plaster model was created by Rory to enable him to carve a masked medic grotesque for Christchurch Priory, Dorset. It is painted to look identical to the stone carving and is easy to handle. Measurements: 22" wide x 17.5" high x 24" deep.

The estimate is £4,000-6,000

Bids must be submitted to rory.carpediem@gmail.com and the timed auction closes at 2pm on Saturday 9th July.

ALL PROCEEDS of the sale will go to the Cancer Unit at Cheltenham General Hospital