

# COLCHESTER ZOO Art Trail

THERE IS MORE TO COLCHESTER ZOO THAN JUST ANIMALS

Across our 60 acres we have a large collection of art that visitors can discover and enjoy as part of their visit. We proudly display work from celebrated British and international artists, as well as a variety of more commercial art.

With everything from oversized statues, geometric busts, abstract mosaics, and formal tranquillity gardens, we hope to inspire and engage you across our site.



*The locations and information contained within this trail are accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, due to work around the zoo to provide the best experience for our visitors, sometimes the art described in this trail is relocated unexpectedly. If you ever visit and find this map/trail inaccurate please let our education team know (at [education@colchesterzoo.org](mailto:education@colchesterzoo.org))*



# COLCHESTER ZOO

## Art Trail



	First Aid		Lockers
	Defibrillator		Picnic area <small>Please do not picnic in other encs</small>
	Fire assembly point		Water fountain
	Toilets - all accessible		Baby feeding <small>(milk/ formula)</small>
	Adult changing <small>(milk/ formula)</small>		Baby changing <small>(milk/ formula)</small>
	Information		Quiet zone

- 1 Statues and other 3D art
- i Curated gardens
- A Murals and other 2D art



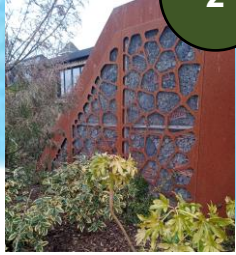
# STATUES AND OTHER 3D ART AT COLCHESTER ZOO

Large statues greet visitors at the entrance of the zoo. *Which one do you think is life-size? Hint: two of them are smaller than their real life counterparts*

1



2



A unique 3D art piece outside the zoo provides a view of a native bug home (with rounds of wood, stacked tile, bricks, etc.), visible through a rusted metal cutaway giraffe pattern.

3



This 7.5m tall giraffe by French artist Patrick Mimran, marked the entrance of Monte Carlo's Grand Casino Garden and was donated to Colchester Zoo in 2013 to celebrate the zoo's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

4



These over-sized Humboldt penguins provide a fun photo point for visitors eating their lunch.

5



An almost life-sized 3D orca model showcases one major sea lion predator. *Can you spot the other major predators somewhere in the sealion tunnels?*

6



Can you find all four sea lion statues? *Hint: look up.*

7



An orangutan statue marks the entrance to the orangutan house. *Walk through the building to the church to spot another two statues, including one in memory of Rajang.*

8



This classical statue overlooks the formal garden at the base of the ruins of All Saint's Church. *Have a look around the church, can you find the old church bell?*

9



This playful sculpture brings a static beehive to life for younger zoo visitors and provides information about these important pollinators for older zoo visitors.

# STATUES AND OTHER 3D ART AT COLCHESTER ZOO



10

Another fun visitor photo point. *Can you find both meerkat statues near the meerkat enclosure?*

Within the shrubbery is an old and weathered cast stone finial eagle. It is reminiscent of the sorts of statues that would have decorated the grounds of Stanway Hall before it became a zoo in 1963.



11

Traditionally, bronze statues were used to impart a feeling of wealth and nobility. Lion statues have a long history in art of representing majesty, strength, and courage. *What do you feel when you look at these lion sculptures?*

12

This giant bronze tortoise statue is a firm favourite with younger zoo visitors, although it is forever disparaged by zoo keepers for its anatomical inaccuracy. *Can you figure out what is wrong about it? Hint: look at its feet then look at the feet of the nearby real tortoises.*

13



14

Miniature model villages were popular tourist attractions starting in the 1930s. At the same time, miniature 'guinea pig' villages became a popular way of showing these endearing animals, with model guinea pig villages in zoos across the UK. *Look closely, can you spot 'The Dandelion Inn'?*

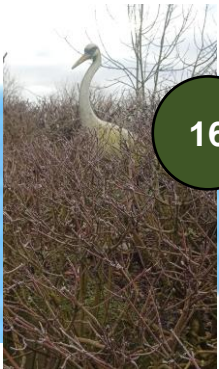
15

This climb inside kangaroo sculpture is another photo point. *Can you find the two eggs and tortoise photo points nearby?*



16

The nearby giraffe towers over the hedges, but can you find the smaller crane statue hiding in the bushes?



17

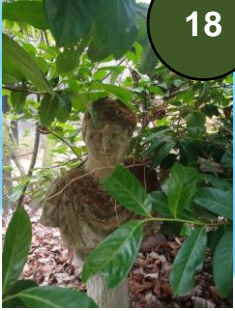
Wander down the Wilderness Walkway and look down from the bridge. *Can you spot the large concrete statues half-submerged in the water?*





# STATUES AND OTHER 3D ART AT COLCHESTER ZOO

18



This classical bust is almost completely obscured in the foliage. Although now hard to spot, it has long been a fixture since the early days of the zoo when Roman busts were frequently used as decorative elements in gardens or other public spaces.

Overlooking the lake are a pair of snarling pumas, a crocodile, and a frog. The statues are all bronze, but look very different. The pumas distinctive black patina is due to a chemical applied to their surface. Elsewhere in the zoo, where visitors touch bronze statues, they are polished to an illustrious golden shine. Here, out of reach, the crocodile and frog have oxidised to a natural green patina.

19



20



The large stag beetle sculptures highlight the importance of the nature area for native species by making this local endangered species more recognisable. *Can you find any other insect sculptures nearby?*

21



A prehistoric-looking Komodo dragon sculpture guards this busy picnic area, while providing a sense of scale for how big these reptiles can grow.

22



A giant anteater sculpture greets visitors walking down the ramp by their enclosure. Although many find this statue surprisingly large, it is almost life-size.

Around the chimpanzee enclosure are a variety of chimpanzee statues (*can you find all four?*) but in addition to this, on the wall are three highly sculptural busts depicting a chimpanzee, gorilla, and orangutan.

23



24



A group of bronze elephant sculptures bid farewell to visitors as they leave the zoo. *They are part of a much larger herd, did you see any similar sculptures earlier in your visit? Hint: they are by the elephant enclosure.*



# CURATED GARDENS AT COLCHESTER ZOO



i

**Tropical Garden.** Colchester Zoo's garden team uses a variety of tropical plants to immerse visitors in the experience of being in the Indonesian rainforest. *Which plant contributes the most to the 'experience' of being in the rainforest.*



ii

**George Matthews Garden.** This formal garden was established in 2005. Its formal lines and traditional plant selection complement the derelict church ruins of All Saint's Church. The church itself dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with improvements and changes made until it was abandoned in the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The distinctive check-patterned base of the west tower, visible behind the garden, dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century.



iii

**Tranquillity Garden.** The garden surrounding the koi enclosure is heavily inspired by Japanese Zen gardens and features their three essential garden elements: water, representing life forces; stone, forming the landscape structure; and plants to provide colour and changes across the seasons. *Look closely to spot the pagoda statues, tipping bamboo fountain, and a bridge in the hashi-style.*



iv

**Sensory Garden.** This garden is thematically designed as a multi-sensory mixture, engaging multiple senses such as sight, smell and sound at the same time. Different species of plants enhances the variety of architecture, height, shape, smells, hues and patterns within this space.



v

**Native Species Garden.** Native plants are used all around the zoo, but on the nature area they create a sculptural framework with the natural river emphasising its length and creating a dramatic focal point while embracing the natural world.



vi

**Water Garden.** This peaceful pool showcases a variety of water plants, while creating important native habitat. In addition to its immediate visual impact, this garden also benefits from the movement, reflection and sounds of the natural-looking pool.

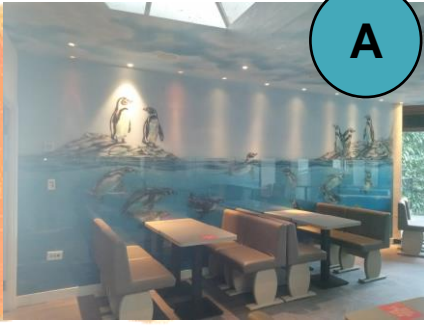


vii

**Dry Roof Garden.** This small roof-top garden is planted with a variety of sedums and other drought tolerant plants. This helps keep maintenance to a minimum while helping promote water conservation gardening.



# MURALS AND OTHER 2D ART AT COLCHESTER ZOO



A

A penguin-themed installation is located inside the Penguin's Restaurant. This includes a variety of artistic methods and styles including sky murals across the ceiling, oversized penguin photographs, sculpturally arranged "planted walls", realistic penguin murals, and water inspired glasswork.

This highly stylised mural of elephants focuses on natural light and playful colours through the use of bright daubs of paint with almost impressionistic characteristics.

B



C

Detailed glass paintings of leaves when viewed at a distance, form a mosaic-style image of two African monkey species – the colobus monkey and patas monkey.

The inside meerkat viewing area has murals inspired by Tanzanian artist, Edward Saidi Tingatinga. This East African art style is characterised by brilliant colour with subjects that are caricatural.

D



Close to the aardvark burrow, is more art inspired in the style of Edward Saidi Tingatinga.

E



F



Leading into the aardvark burrow, murals depict the African savannah complete with termite mounds. *Which animal do you think might love to eat termites?*

G



The Nature Area bird hide has murals across the walls and ceilings depicting the view one might see outside those very walls. *How many birds, and other animals can you find hiding in the painting?*

H



The wooden benches around the Nature Area have wood-burned animal silhouette stencils decorating them. *How many unique silhouettes can you spot?*



# MURALS AND OTHER 2D ART AT COLCHESTER ZOO

The Island dweller enclosure viewing has stylised trees silhouettes painted across the walls merging into a camouflage-patterned painted ceiling. This creates a feeling of being in a wildlife hide and helps to hush visitors near these flightily animals.



I

J



A patchwork of bold and bright repeating patterns carpet the floor. This includes classic 'animal' prints as well as stylised geometric designs. *How many unique patterns can you spot?*

Outside the Komodo dragon enclosure is a painted sign depicting dragons from folklore, fantasy, and legend from around the world.



K



L

The lemur classroom is covered in a detailed mural of a lush tropical rainforest. The plants depicted in the paintings almost blend into the real plants through the windows creating a sense of immersion between the visitor and animal areas.

A detailed trompe-l'œil painted mural creates the effect of looking into the gruesome reality of a bear bile farm. The effect is further enhanced through the use of 3D iron work to create real bars and cages in the foreground.

M



N



A panoramic tree-top photograph enhances the upper reaches of the chimpanzee enclosure. Within the enclosure, reinforced concrete 'trees' providing a durable climbing structure for the animals. In the visitor areas, the photo helps reinforce this image of trees and forests.