'Adrift' by John Cassidy

'Adrift' is a bronze statue by John Cassidy, made in 1907 and first exhibited at the New Gallery in London. It depicts a family clinging to a life raft in a stormy sea. The central figure is a half-naked man holding a sheet up with his right hand, calling for help. His family is arranged around him at the base. It was purchased by James Gresham, a wealthy local engineer who offered it as a gift to Manchester City Council. It was originally to go in a new municipal art gallery in Piccadilly that was never built. The statue ended up on the same site in a sunken garden created after World War I, remaining here for many years. It was moved in 1953, being replaced in the gardens with a fountain to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. The statue went to the South side of the gardens. In 2002 it went into storage for a while before going back on public display in St Peter's Square in March 2009.



With the works completed on the Manchester Library buildings, HPC Ltd returned the statue to its plinth in the centre of Manchester at the beginning of 2015.

Heritage Project Contracts Ltd Unit 1, Ainsdale Drive Harlescott Industrial Estate Shrewsbury SY1 3TL Tel: 01743 460035 In 2011, the 'Adrift' statue was taken into storage again to allow for the refurbishment of the Manchester Town Hall Extension and City Library. Heritage Project Contracts was employed to carefully remove the statue, pack it and transfer it to their workshop for safe storage. In 2014 it was unpacked at the workshop and given a gentle clean before application of a coat of protective wax.



Works completed - January 2015 Main contractor - Laing O'Rourke

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