

## Blog

# Sandstone Steps Project and an Artist in Residence at The Crichton

26 September 2023



### Recent Posts

[Sandstone Steps Project and an Artist in Residence at The Crichton](#)

26th September 2023

[Crichton Campus Leadership Group celebrates 10th anniversary with new Statement of Ambition](#)

20th September 2023

[Join us in leading The Crichton](#)

5th September 2023

[UCI Cycling World Championships at The Crichton: What You Need to Know](#)

9th August 2023

F months, we've been lucky enough to

Translate »

welcome Maddy Rosenberg to The Crichton as an Artist in Residence as part of the *Sandstone Steps* project in collaboration with Hugh Bryden and Roncadora Press.

Sandstone Steps is an ambitious collaborative project that explores and celebrates the historical cultural flux that crossed and re-crossed the Atlantic between the coasts of New York and Dumfries and Galloway. It all began with the voyage of sandstone and craftsmen from Scotland in the nineteenth century, and still continues today.

### [SANDSTONE STEPS PROJECT: From Scotland to New York – YouTube](#)

Maddy Rosenberg told us about the origins of the project:

“I have always worked internationally and when I was in the country for another project a number of years ago, Hugh, already a CENTRAL BOOKING artist, invited me to Dumfries for the day. Of course Hugh had to give me a thorough tour of the area and, as we both enjoy collaboration, he mentioned he had an idea for a project. His Annan roots and my Brooklyn ones seemed perfect for a project revolving around sandstone, immigration stories and cultural exchange, not to mention a common focus on bookart, printmaking and architecture. I was looking forward to Hugh’s visit to NY so I could show him a tour of my home, with the nearby Brooklyn brownstones and the spectacular Capitol staircases.

And so we both got to work bringing together all the elements of the project, contacting people for research, venues, residencies, programming and sponsorship. The amazing handcrafted sculptural book simulated staircase remains at the center, an art object that will wind up mostly in public collections on both sides of the Atlantic, but with poetry pamphlets, individual prints, and music components available for all.”

### **The Million Dollar Staircase**

Did you know that sandstone from Dumfries and Galloway was used to create the staircase in the Capitol Building in

### [CHOIRS – WE NEED YOU!](#)

25th July 2023

---

### [Site Access at The Crichton – UCI World Cycling Championships 11th and 12th August 2023](#)

20th July 2023

---

### [The Crichton Estate Achieves Environmental Excellence](#)

18th July 2023

---

### [Family Cycling Festival at The Crichton](#)

3rd July 2023

---

### [LADYFIELD HOUSING SITE UNDER REVIEW](#)

8th June 2023

---

### [MILESTONE MONTH FOR EXEMPLAR MASTERPLAN](#)

3rd June 2023

---

## Categories

[Business](#)

[Community](#)

[Covid-19 updates](#)

[Education](#)

[Events](#)

[Food & Drink](#)

[Magazine](#)

[Oral History Project](#)

[Property News](#)

[Tenders](#)

## Archives

[September 2023](#)

Albany, New York?

So called because of the cost of the project, the staircase was carved in place from massive blocks of sandstone between 1884 to 1898. The staircase boasts intricate carvings of flora and fauna as well as symbols, and portraits of distinguished figures of the day. A new carving made from Corsehill sandstone has been added to the roster. Ruth Bader Ginsberg, trailblazing Supreme Court justice, feminist icon, was the latest figure to be added to the staircase, the first person to be added in 125 years, and is one of few women to feature.

Corsehill sandstone comes from Corsehill quarry, located near Annan. Extensively quarried in the 1800s and popular due to its quality and durability, Corsehill supplied sandstone to the likes of Liverpool Street Station and The Capitol Building in Albany, New York. Having closed in the 1940s the quarry was reopened in 1982 and has since supplied many high-profile projects, with large reserves for the future.

### **Sandstone Steps Project**

The Sandstone Steps Project is a cultural exchange that fosters collaborations between visual artists, musicians and poets from Dumfries and Galloway and New York, producing a prestigious limited edition artist's book, commissioned music, poetry pamphlets and artists print portfolios; along with exhibitions and performances on both sides of the Atlantic.

*Sandstone Steps* is a multi-disciplinary cultural event in a box, an artist's book in three parts: with a musical element, a literary element and a visual art element. The box, in the shape of a staircase with drawers, will contain specially commissioned music, poetry and relief prints in each of its three "steps." From May – September 2024, it will be the center of a programme of exhibitions, concerts, poetry readings and related events in Dumfries and Galloway, before moving to New York for celebrations in 2025.

Maddy outlined her stay in Dumfries and her time as an artist

August 2023  
July 2023  
June 2023  
May 2023  
April 2023  
March 2023  
February 2023  
January 2023  
December 2022  
November 2022  
October 2022  
September 2022  
August 2022  
July 2022  
June 2022  
May 2022  
April 2022  
March 2022  
February 2022  
January 2022  
December 2021  
November 2021  
October 2021  
September 2021  
August 2021  
July 2021  
June 2021  
May 2021  
April 2021  
March 2021  
February 2021  
January 2021  
December 2020  
November 2020  
October 2020  
September 2020  
August 2020  
July 2020  
June 2020  
May 2020

in residence at The Crichton:

“This year was meant to familiarize people in Dumfries and Galloway with the project and fundraise through exhibitions, pop-ups, presentations, meet and greets to make it all possible, as the *Sandstone Steps* full artist’s book itself is quite costly to produce with all its components. In addition, Hugh and I focused on mapping out and beginning production on our contribution of a suite of prints and all the design and structures of the visuals.

“My stay at The Crichton helped to facilitate it all. It has been lovely having my cottage in this peaceful place, perfectly situated for river walks into town and watching the sunsets from my window. My favorite part of the cottage was the studio room, set up ready for us to get right to work. The grounds were certainly calming to walk in, not to mention themselves providing me with images that may show up in my prints.”

### **An artist’s book in three parts**

Centring on the theme of Scotland’s sandstone quarries, the three-tier wooden box consists of three ‘steps’, each one a drawer housing its own complete art event whilst working together with the others to become a full spectrum experience. The box is coated with a sandstone textured paint and sealed to emulate solid sandstone steps.

[April 2020](#)  
[March 2020](#)  
[February 2020](#)  
[January 2020](#)  
[December 2019](#)  
[November 2019](#)  
[October 2019](#)  
[July 2019](#)  
[June 2019](#)  
[March 2019](#)  
[February 2019](#)  
[January 2019](#)  
[December 2018](#)  
[October 2018](#)  
[September 2018](#)  
[August 2018](#)  
[July 2018](#)  
[June 2018](#)  
[May 2018](#)  
[April 2018](#)  
[March 2018](#)  
[February 2018](#)  
[January 2018](#)  
[December 2017](#)

## Recent Posts

[Sandstone Steps Project and an Artist in Residence at The Crichton](#)

26th September 2023

---

[Crichton Campus Leadership Group celebrates 10th anniversary with new Statement of Ambition](#)

20th September 2023

---

[Join us in leading The Crichton](#)

5th September 2023

---

UCI Cycling World  
Championships at The  
Crichton: What You  
Need to Know  
9th August 2023

---

CHOIRS – WE NEED  
YOU!  
25th July 2023

---

Site Access at The  
Crichton – UCI World  
Cycling Championships  
11th and 12th August  
2023  
20th July 2023

---

The Crichton Estate  
Achieves Environmental  
Excellence  
18th July 2023

---

Family Cycling Festival  
at The Crichton  
3rd July 2023

---

LADYFIELD HOUSING  
SITE UNDER REVIEW  
8th June 2023

---

MILESTONE MONTH  
FOR EXEMPLAR  
MASTERPLAN  
3rd June 2023

---

“And though I am leaving [Dumfries], Hugh and I continue to work on the book. We both appreciate any support of the project. There’s still time to “pre-order” the parts of the final book, and help us at the same time to produce them, by contributing to the fundraiser.”

Find out more about the Sandstone Steps, including the planned events for 2024, on Maddy’s CENTRAL BOOKING website [Sandstone Steps – CENTRAL BOOKING \(centralbookingnyc.com\)](https://centralbookingnyc.com)

To donate to the Crowdfunder for the project, click [here](#).