

Danny Lane: *Stairway*, 2007 Glass and steel, (edition 2/6)



Four Questions:....and why?

1. Would you make a staircase out of glass?
2. Do you think this is more a work of art or maybe a functional staircase?
3. What ideas might the artist have been thinking about when he made this sculpture?
4. What words would you use to describe the glass on each stair?



Danny Lane (b.1955) is an American artist, living in London. Lane's big interest is in experimenting with contemporary materials like glass, steel, aluminium and wood in his designs of furniture and sculpture.

One of his key concerns is how **light** affects the surfaces of his works. Light on glass and light on stainless steel produce different but interesting results. Lane always likes to **trick your eye** by using or doing something special with light!

Here, Lane makes a contemporary staircase out of industrial glass and steel. It reaches upwards to the sky and mirrors the feeling of height in the Cathedral's 55 metre church spire. Lane really likes to contrast old and new materials in his artworks.

Most people believe that glass is fragile and breakable - but here it actually resilient and robust when engineered in this way: '**Glass under compression**' is formed by pouring, and then pressing, hot molten glass into cold moulds. When the glass hits the cold mould, it compresses the surface. The glass pulls together so that any flaws or cracks become closed and solid rather than free to open and splinter). In his experiments with glass, Lane discovered that compressed glass can be **many** times stronger than concrete or even granite stone!

Lane 'always has a pencil in his hand'. First, he draws his ideas then he constructs his work.

Drawing Activity:with a pencil in your hand.

1. Carefully draw a realistic picture of a staircase, remembering its structure. Think: what angle will you draw it from? Now draw the setting for your staircase. Make it your own setting- it can be anywhere you want. Where will it be?
2. Crouch down at the central base of the staircase. See if you can line the centre point up to one of the spires of the Cathedral! Photograph this magic view with a camera if you can!

Talking Activity: 'Reach for the stars!'

1. Imagine you are ascending these stairs. Where might you go on this staircase?

By Curious Curators 2020