Public art at Camden Council Administration Offices

'The Tree of Life'

When you enter the administration building of Camden Council at Oran Park, you pass an exciting sculpture along a wall adjacent to the entry.

The art installation extends from the entry to the end of the building. It is called The Tree of Life by sculptors Gillie and Marc celebrating the Camden White Gum.
The Tree of Life art installation by sculptures Gillie and Marc commissioned by Camden Council for the opening of the administration building in 2016 (I Willis, 2023)

The artwork dimensions are described as 'lifesize', and the medium is corten steel. Corten steel or weathered steel is used in outdoor construction and artworks. The steel is designed to eliminate painting and will, if left exposed to the elements, develop a rusted appearance.

Gillie and Marc describe the style of the artwork as contemporary sculpture, silhouette and botanical.
The information plaque that tells the story of The Tree of Life adjacent to the art installation on the Camden Council administration building. (I Willis 2023)

The *Tree of Life* information plaque states:

The Tree of Life is to bring nature into the urban space and raise awareness about the Camden White Gum that symbolises growth and vitality. It represents the passing of time and marking of the landscape. The tree’s branches mirror the branching out and emergence of the diverse social and cultural communities both of the past and present. The Camden White Gum (*Eucalyptus benthamii*) known as the Nepean River Gum is a threatened native tree, occurring along the Nepean River and its tributaries in Camden.

Camden Council administration building, 70 Central Ave, Oran Park.

*The Camden White Gum* is an endangered species and can be found along the Nepean River in the Camden area, Bents Basin, and the Kedumba Valley in the Blue Mountains.
The **Camden White Gum**, *Eucalyptus benthamii*, along the Nepean River.

(Wikimedia, 2005)

The [Gillie and Marc website](https://gillieandmarc.com) describes the art installation, *The Tree of Life*, on the Camden Council office building this way:

A combination of steel and nature, trees and architecture. This is the relief for the Camden Council. Proudly displayed on the outside of their headquarters, this relief shows how a community can stay strong. There is a need for steel and strength, building infrastructure that will stand the test of time and keep people safe. But it is also important to not forget the natural world, combining the man-made with the organic
qualities of the earth to keep us happy and healthy. Only then can we thrive.
https://gillieandmarc.com/collections/nature

Sculptures Gillie and Marc

The website of sculptors Gillie and Marc states

British and Australian artists, Gillie and Marc have been called “the most successful and prolific creators of public art in New York’s History” by the New York Times. Creating some of the world’s most innovative public sculptures, Gillie and Marc are redefining what public art should be, spreading messages of love, equality, and conservation around the world. Their highly coveted sculptures and paintings can be seen in art galleries and public sites in over 250 cities. They’re Archibald Prize Finalists and have won the Chianciano Biennale in Italy, together with winning 2 years in a row People’s Choice Award in Sydney’s Sculpture by the Sea, among many other notable awards and accolades.

Gillie and Marc are based in both Sydney and London, sharing their time between their two countries of birth.
https://gillieandmarc.com/pages/about

Opening of the administration building in 2016

The artwork was commissioned by Camden Council for the opening of the new administration building in 2016 at 70 Central Avenue, Oran Park.
The plaque commemorating the opening of the Camden Council administration building in 2016 (I Willis 2023)

The plaque at the opening of the council administration building in 2016 with members of the official party Chris Patterson MLA, Mayor Lara Symkowiak, Minister Paul O'Toole MLA, Tony Perich (2016 A McIntosh)
This image shows the Camden Council administration building (right) adjacent to the library. The artwork 'The Tree of Life' is on the RHS of entry at the centre of the office building at the end of the walkway. (I Willis, 2023)

*The Tree of Life* sculpture complements the art installations located in the council library building that were commissioned by the council. The library building was opened at the same time as the administration building in 2016.