Art & Design

INSIDE ART

NEW SCULPTURES AT BARD

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The Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y., has installed a series of outdoor sculptures by Mark Handforth, an artist known for taking familiar images and transplanting them in unexpected, often surreal ways.

“Wishbone,” a sculpture of raw aluminum made last year, is now on the lawn of the western entrance to the Hessel Museum at Bard. The artist took the image of a tiny chicken bone and digitally enlarged it to produce a copy that is seven and a half feet high. “Wishbone” is on long-term loan to Bard from the LUMA Foundation and a center board member, Maja Hoffmann.

Mr. Handforth has also created a series of seven seats that are now at the rear entrance to the center, a popular student hangout. “We’re hoping it will become popular with visitors too,” said Tom Eccles, director of the center. Each seat is fashioned from three kinds of wood — oak, poplar and maple — from trees that had fallen on the Bard campus. The seats are a permanent installation.

Mr. Eccles, a former director of the Public Art Fund in New York, has worked with Mr. Handforth before. In 2003 he installed a 45-foot-tall twisted lamppost by Mr. Handforth at the Doris C. Freedman Plaza, in Central Park at Fifth Avenue and 60th Street. “Wishbone,” Mr. Eccles said, is different.

“Mark has really pushed the boundaries of sculpture to make them as accessible as, say, a Claes Oldenburg, but with a more contemporary edge,” he added.

The installations coincide with two major exhibitions opening at Bard on Saturday: “Blinky Polermo: Retrospective 1964-77” and “If You Lived Here, You’d Be Home by Now,” a show about the life of the art object in domestic settings.