

# The 'Magic Jumping Bean' Update

Lister House Sculpture Progress Report by Tim Shutter Artist/Sculptor

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## The Idea

The sculpture is a fun sized capsule balanced on its end, like a child's magic jumping bean caught in the moment of equilibrium before its next somersault. Within the body of the pill like capsule, there is a massed community of happy spheres; these include simple smiling faces and spheres that have pleasing decorative forms or associations. The Sculpture is a monument to the quality of human frivolity, qualities that makes people happy, positive and healthy. This seems an entirely appropriate subject for the new Lister House Health Centre.

The seven blocks of Portland stone that will make up the sculpture are now on order, with the four tonne load scheduled to be delivered to my Hackney studio in January. After all the preparation it is the actual carving that I am most looking forward to, the removal of about one and a half tonnes of stone to slowly rough out then refine all the forms.



## Happy in the round!

Over the next few weeks I will work on firming up the details for the carving. The pill contains fifty happy spheres and they all need to be designed. I have found the best way to approach this is by making small clay models, as these tell you much more than a two dimensional drawing. So my studio is slowly filling up with these little spheres from which I will choose those that I find to be the most engaging and positive. They will then be arranged according to how they relate visually and conceptually; so that close neighbours will seem to speak to each other. This will be the starting point for the carving, but no doubt there will be many more decisions to make when I change the scale and material.

