

The #150mmchallenge is a celebration of process, material, creativity and ingenuity in forged metal that began with a student project in the UK. The exhibition displays a curated collection of 150 metal objects, selected from over 400 pieces created by amateur and professional blacksmiths from around the world.

The #150mmchallenge has its origins in the charming, historic cathedral city of Hereford, UK. With around 55,000 inhabitants, it is surrounded by the green rolling hills and hedgerows of traditional English agricultural land and the distant Welsh Mountains. It's a fitting setting for the blacksmithing capital of the UK and is home to the country's only Artist Blacksmithing degree course at Hereford College of Arts, where the #150mmchallenge was first conceived.

Tutor, Ambrose Burne gave his students, a 'warm-up' challenge to create something interesting out of a small rectangular piece of steel, 150mm x 20mm x 20mm (5.9 x 0.79 x 0.79 inches). They each had three weeks to make something out of the piece, without adding anything else, and they posted photos of their completed work onto the course Instagram account, @herefordanvils, using the hashtag #150mmchallenge.

The challenge 'went viral' - catching the interest of blacksmiths from around the world, resulting in an exhibition that toured Europe to much acclaim. The artworks vary from playful figurative models to functional tools and abstract sculptures, demonstrating a diverse, creative and technical exploration of form and concept made in response to the challenge.

"By bringing this to venues across the United States, ABANA is providing opportunities for the public to see firsthand the #150mmchallenge's myriad of forms coaxed from a uniform piece of steel. This exhibit speaks to the endless creativity and skill of modern-day artisans who use traditional blacksmithing techniques to manipulate steel to magnificent effect." - Leigh Morrell, President of ABANA

The #150mmchallenge continues to connect an international community of blacksmiths; revealing a rich diversity of practice and highlighting the value of social media in developing discourse across a dispersed making community.



#150mmchallenge

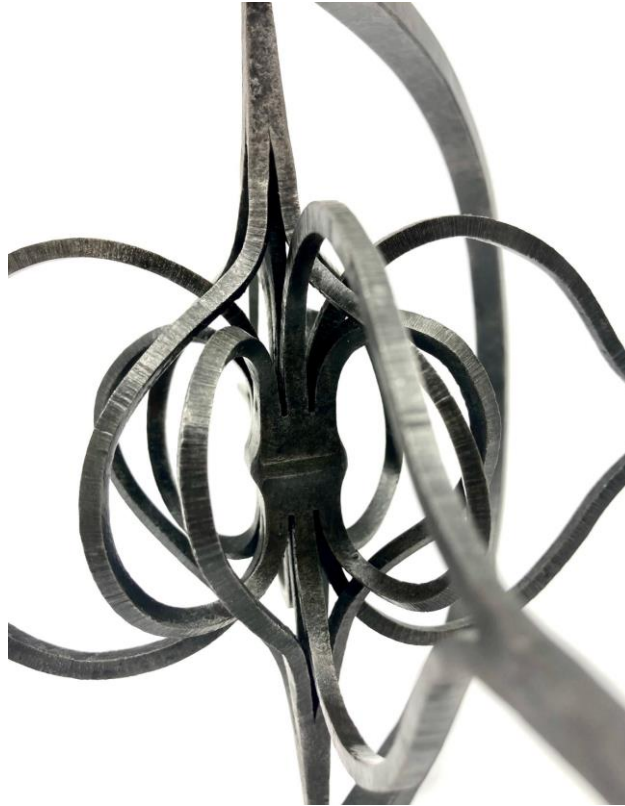
Curated and Produced by Delyth Done, Project Concept Ambrose Burne, Hereford College of Arts, UK. Toured in the USA by ABANA - Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America



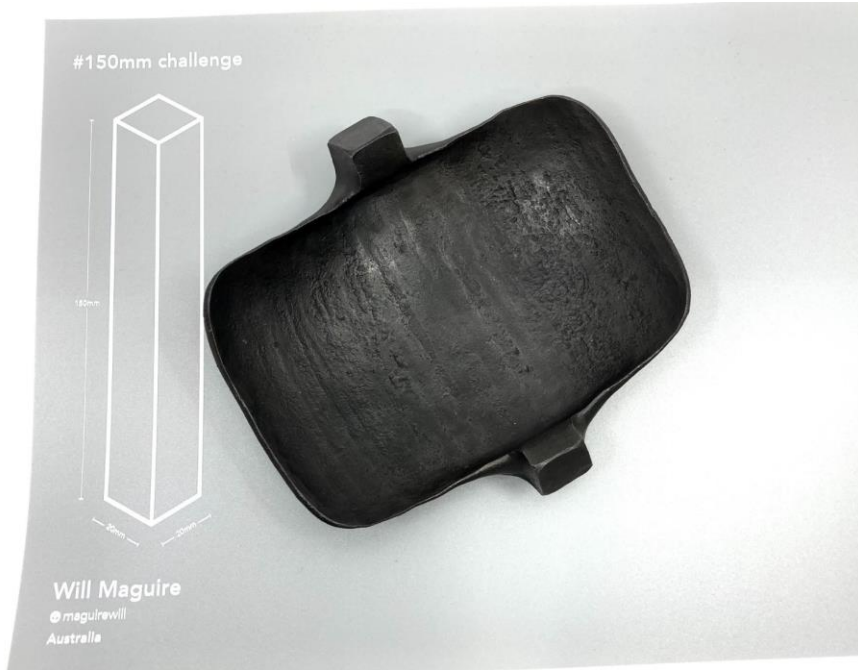
Paul Dekker



Peter Braspenninx



Will Maguire



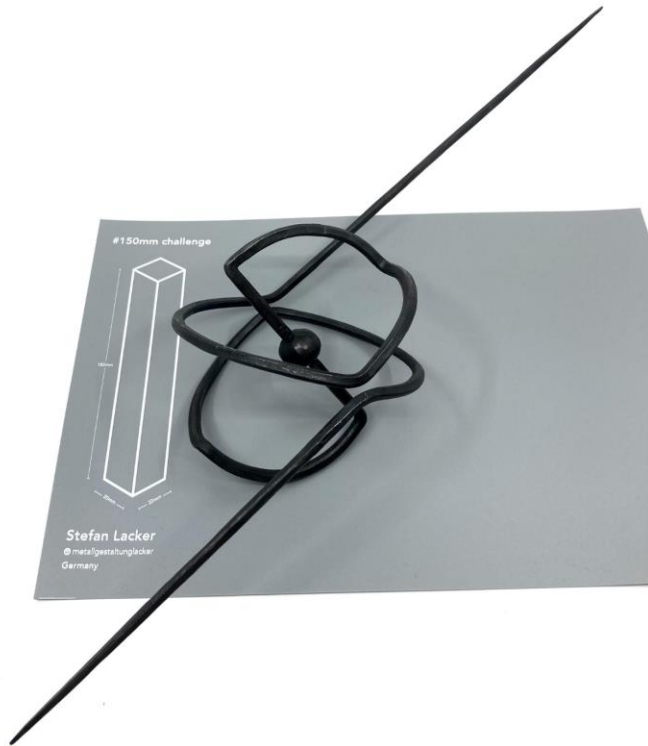
Christoph Friedrich



Matt Mason



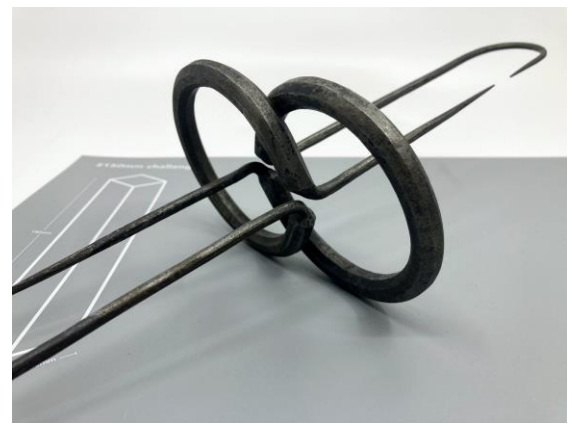
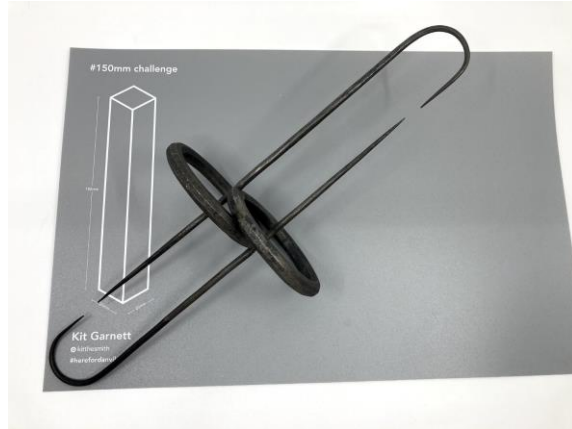
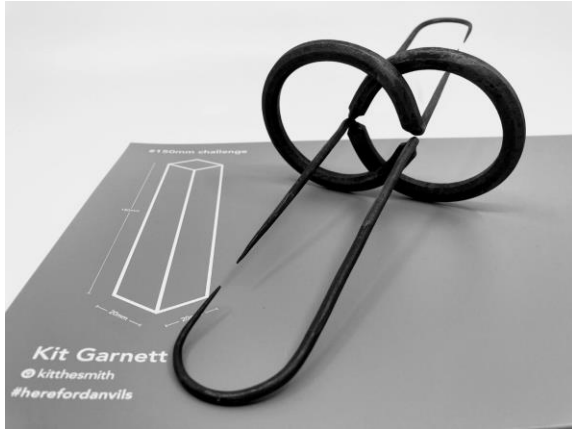
Stefan Lackner



Gabe Chaille



Kit Garnett



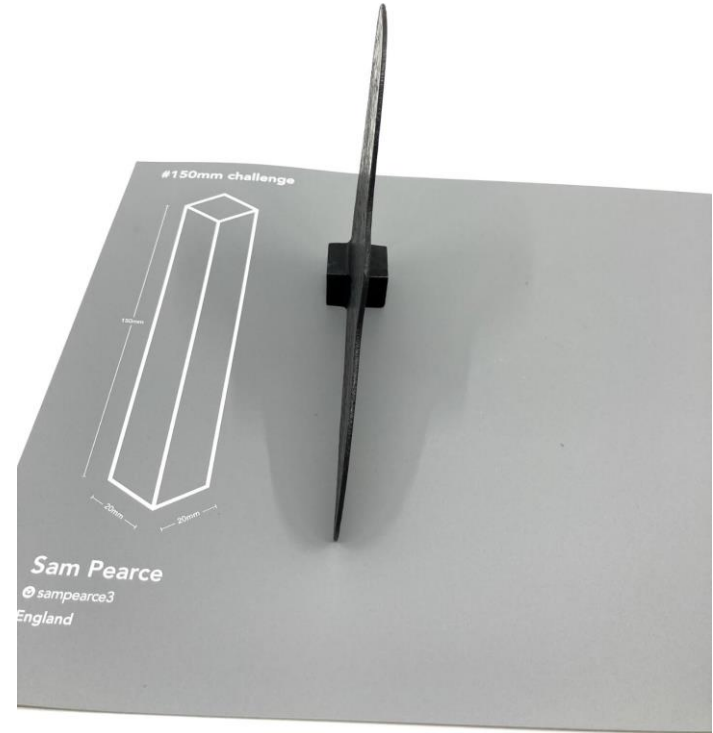
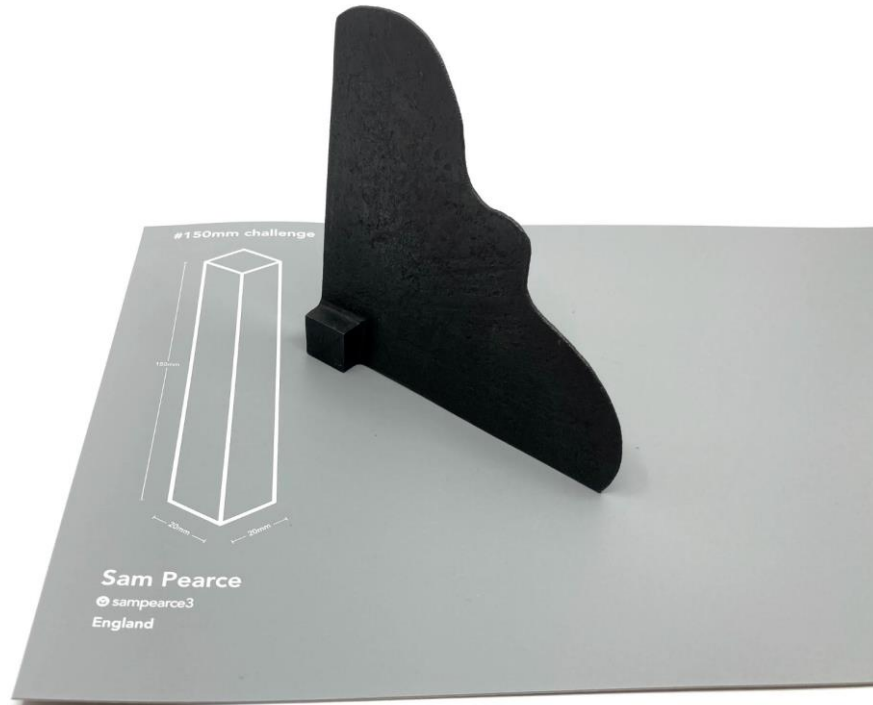
Alex Pole



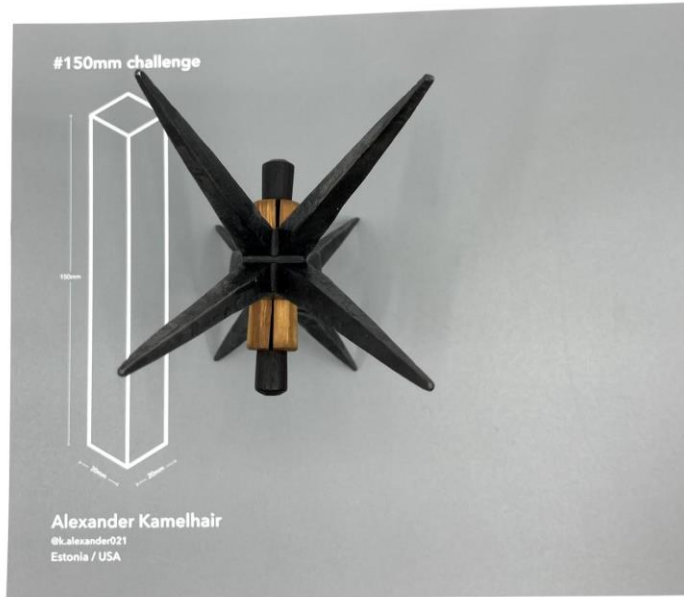
Simon Strobl



Sam Pearce



Alexander Kamelhair



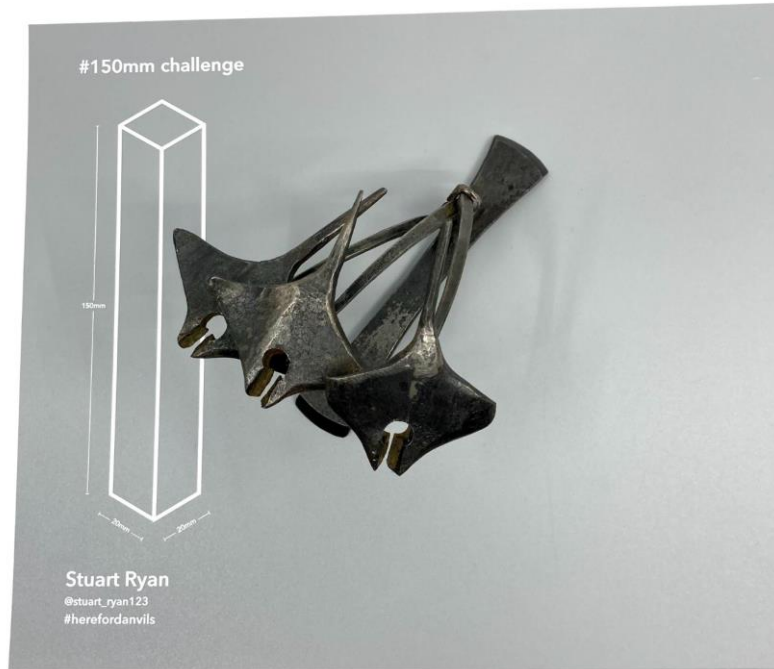
Luc Vandecasteele



Philip Vercammen



Stuart Ryan



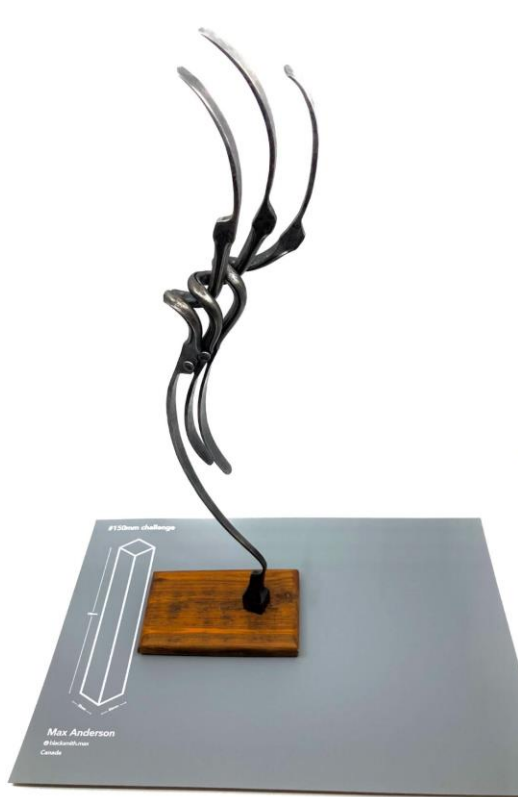
Pete Hill



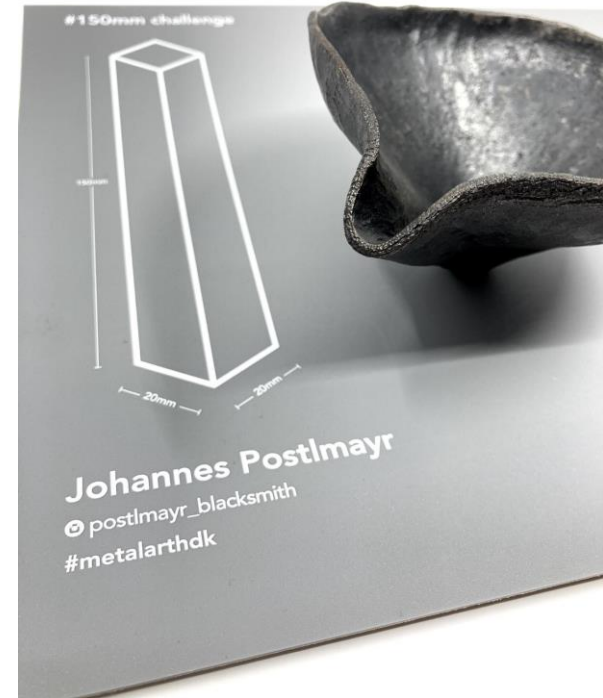
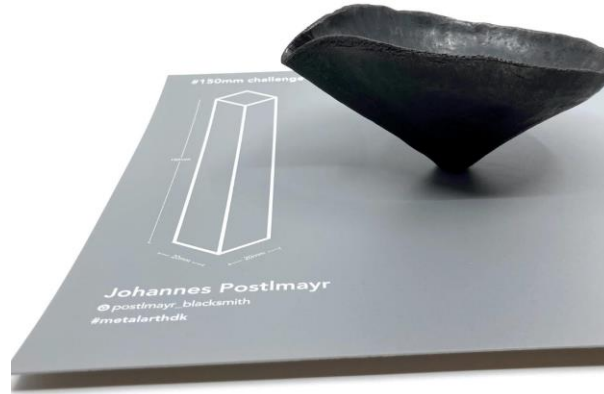
Zeevik Gottlieb



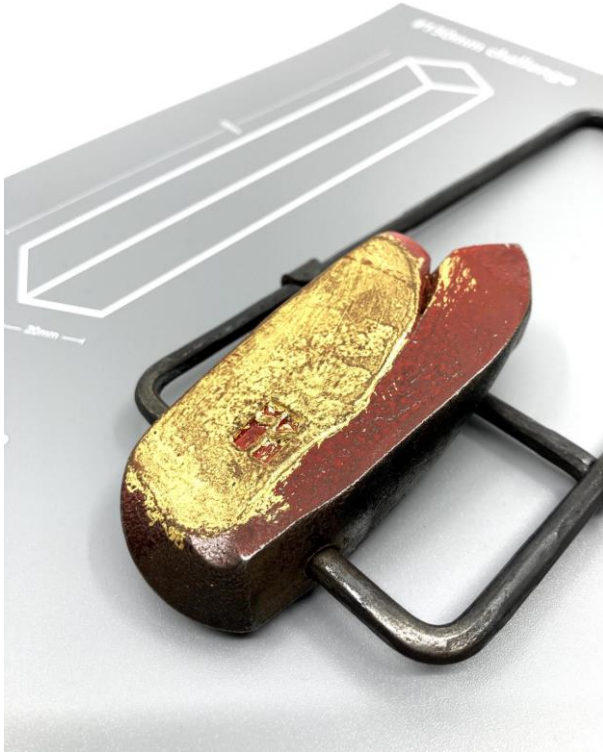
Max Anderson



Johannes Postlmayr



Jokum Lind Jensen



Giles Clarke



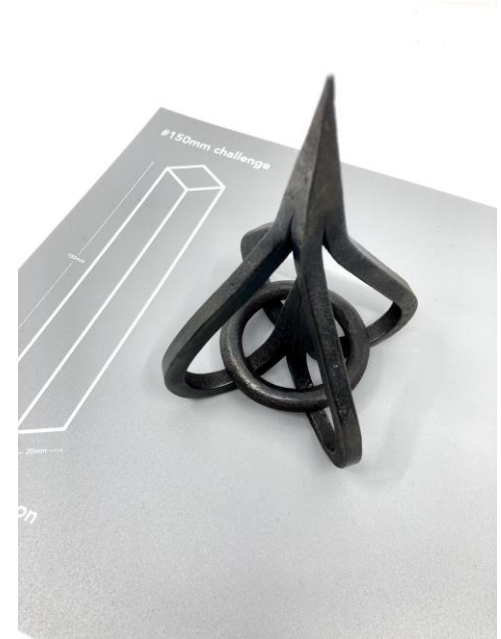
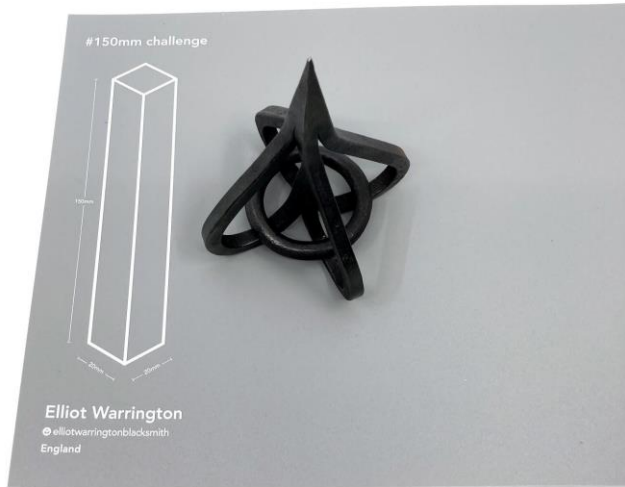
Nathaniel King



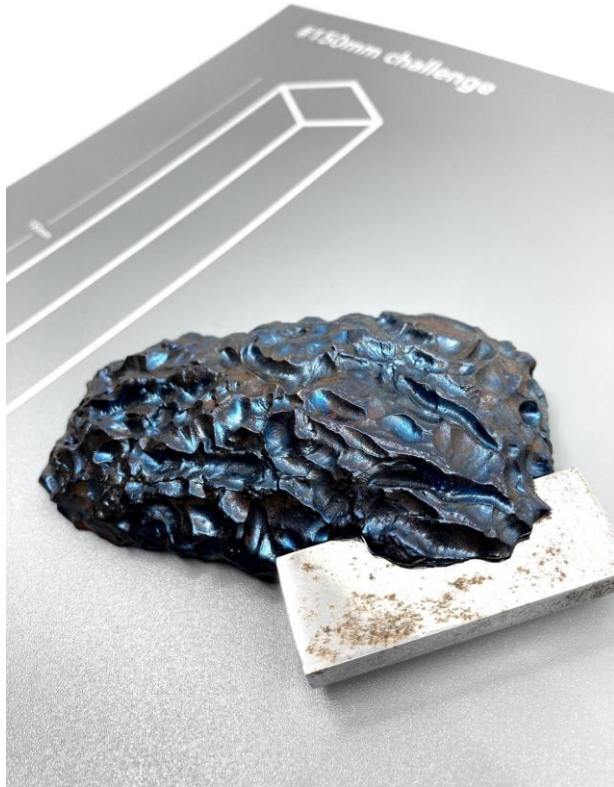
Curtis A Bohn



Elliot Warrington



Arttu Halkosaari



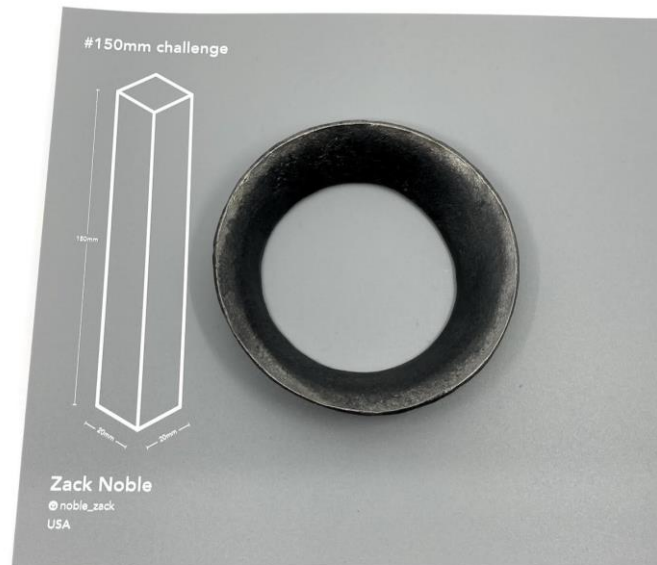
Colin Dray



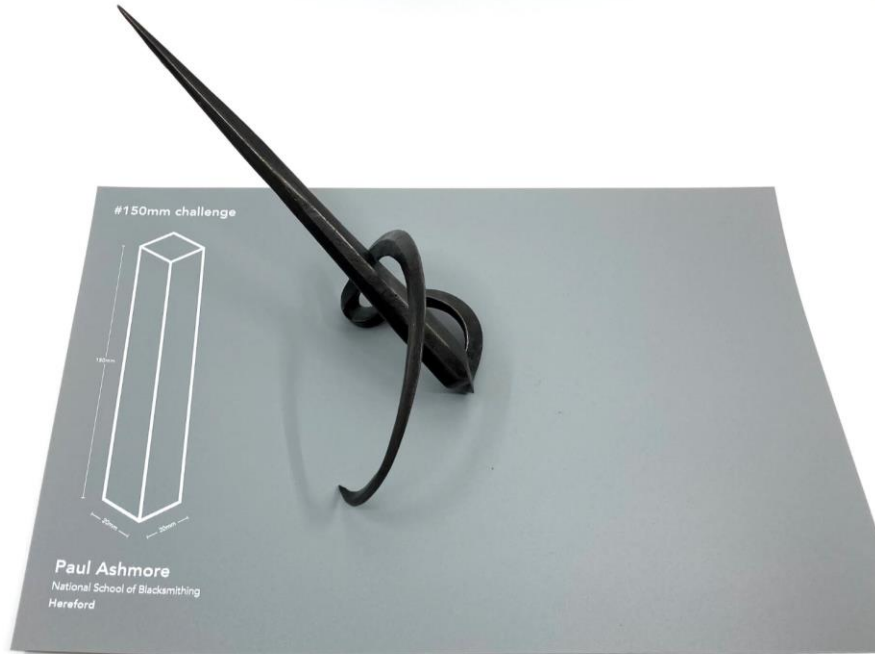
Villo Mustkivi



Zack Noble



Paul Ashmore



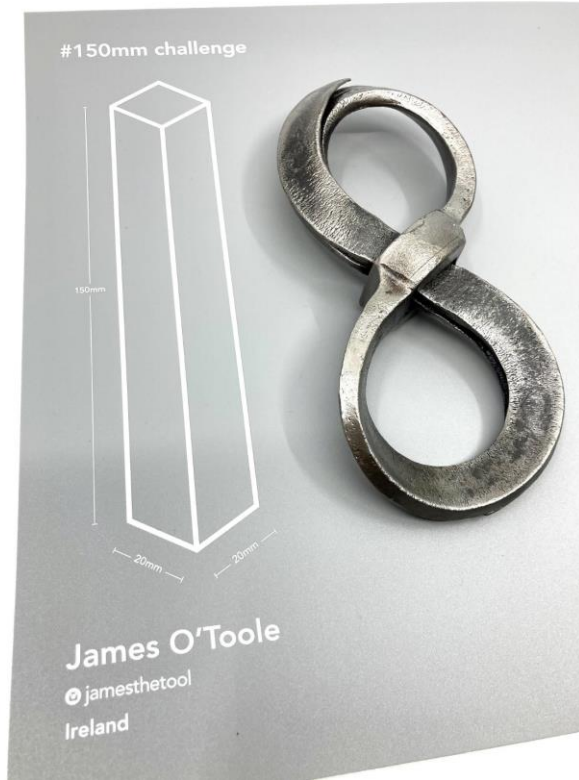
Matt Garton



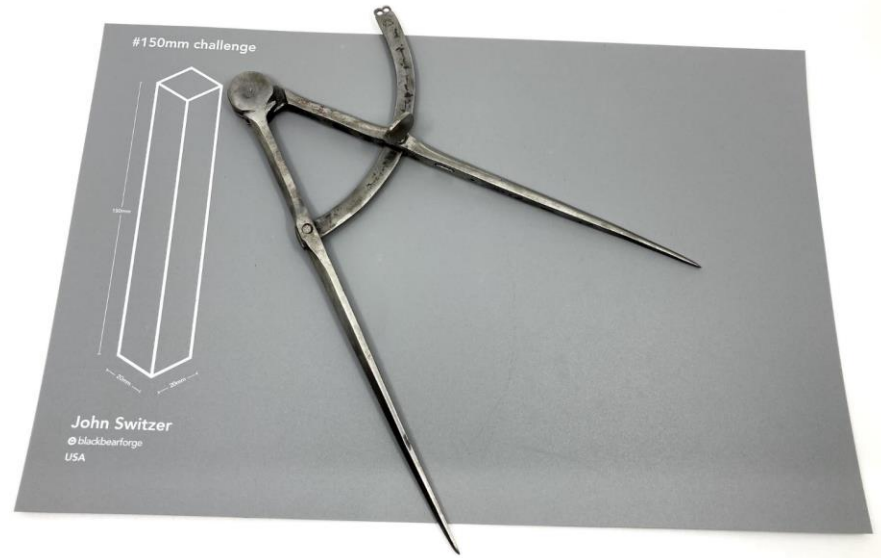
Peter Clark



James O'Toole



John Switzer



Jackson Fellows

