

## Boy with Dolphin - 1973

Probably David Wynne's most famous and much-loved sculpture, one large version is installed at Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, in memory of his son, Roland. David studied dolphins at a Dolphinarium in Oxford Street, London, swimming with them early in the morning. Roland wished to ride on their backs but was too young to do so, though his reward was to pose for the sculpture. Modelled in plaster, not clay, the mass is consequently lighter and it need not be covered when being worked on. Problems, though, occur with the plaster's rapid drying time, so visual and technical preparation is essential. Yet the artist also required hours of quiet contemplation to create the work's harmonies of form and space.

A double cantilever of steel is required to support both figures. Through the leg and arm, meeting with that from the tail to the beak of the dolphin, the steel rods ensure the boy and dolphin fly, seemingly weightless, through the air.

