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Press Release

## **AWARD-WINNING ARTIST AMELIA POON PRESENTS SCULPTURE TO CRC**

**Celebrated artist Amelia Poon has presented Cambridge Regional College with one of her prize-winning sculptures – five years after she took the first steps on the ladder to her new career.**

Amelia, 61, a former buyer at NAPP Pharmaceuticals, changed her life completely when she enrolled on an Options course at CRC and discovered her extraordinary talent for art.

Last night, as part of Adult Learners' Week, she returned to the College to present one of her award-winning mobile sculptures to the head of Foundation Learning, David Golding, and say thank you for her fresh start.

At a special evening to celebrate the achievements of adult learners across the College, she said: "I hadn't been to full-time education for a long, long time, so I had no confidence when I came here. I am so grateful for the Options course because without it I would not have been able to progress - I would not be here today.

"I treasure this second opportunity, and I hope I will inspire other mature students to go back into education – if I can do it, then so can they."



Amelia Poon with David Golding, head of Foundation Learning at CRC, and the award-winning mobile sculpture

Amelia, who went on to do a Fine Art Honours Degree at Anglia Ruskin University and is now studying a two-year Master of Fine Art course, has been nationally recognised for her works of art, all created using bamboo and paper.

“I started from nothing, from drawing one line, and this year I have three exhibitions for my work,” she said. “My teachers at CRC encouraged me and gave me the confidence to carry on.”

Her former teacher, Kate Wheale, said she was extremely proud of Amelia.

“I knew that she had exceptional focus and exceptional capacity for hard work, and I knew that she would succeed. I am so, so proud of her achievements,” she said.

The Options course is designed for adults who want to return to education in a supportive and pressure-free atmosphere, giving them self-confidence and the opportunity to develop new skills. Subjects studied include English Literature, Numeracy, IT, Psychology, Photography, Cultural Studies and Art – the option which inspired Amelia.

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### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto:loshea@camre.ac.uk)

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region, with more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk. Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes.