# Expensive art installation sparks criticism for looking like '£200k penis'

**The 12-metre sculpture by Italian designer Gaetano Pesce in the Naples main square quickly became the butt of controversy and memes once unveiled, for one very clear reason**

Comments 4

NEWS By Zita Whalley
15:32, 12 Oct 2024

**Remind you of anything?** (Image: Jam Press Vid)

A giant, costly public art work has become a hot topic, but for the wrong reasons.

Translating into You're a big thing, Tu si' 'na cosa grande is a large sculptural installation by Gaetano Pesce.

It is supposed to be a tribute to comedic dell'arte character Pulcinella, however the phallic-looking structure has sparked controversy for looking like a penis more than anything else.

**READ MORE:** 'Beer can art' binned by museum staff who though it was 'just rubbish'

***Click for more of the latest news from the Daily Star.***

**Sign up to FREE email alerts from Daily Newsletter**

Enter your Email... Subscribe

We use your sign-up to provide content in ways you've consented to and improve our understanding of you. This may include adverts from us and third parties based on our knowledge of you. More info

The artwork has been, er, erected in Piazza Municipio in Naples, Italy and is a stylised 12-metre representation of the character, accompanied by a five-metre pierced heart.

**The sculpture attracted criticism as soon as it was unveiled** (Image: Jam Press)

**READ MORE:** George, Charlotte and Louis' former home described as a 'prison' for children

**READ MORE:** Woman dies after going overboard from 18-deck cruise ship bound for UK port

The cables that hold it in place are covered with flowers, and the sculpture lights up from within.

It appears the phallus could represent Pulcinella's buttoned down shirt and collar, however at certain angles and when lit up, the tribute to culture heritage does in fact look like an erect, veiny willy, as folk on X were quick to point out.

"It's €200k filth is what it is!," said one user, while another commented: "And we're supposed to believe they had no idea what it would look like. Aye, right!"

**It is supposed to be as tribute to a comedia dell'arte character** (Image: Jam Press)

One X user shared what is purported to be Pesce's original design, which clearly resembles a billowy shirt. The architect and designer died in April this year, so the user argued that "his plans were left in the hands of others".

The installation was "designed to celebrate the popular and ironic spirit of Naples", according to Finestre sull'Arte, however it was the subject of controversy from the moment it was unveiled.

Neapolitans quickly took to social media once the sculpture was unveiled, with one person commenting that the sculpture "unsettles" them "a bit".

**But it looks like more of an ode to something else** (Image: Jam Press)

Another person joked: "We are simply citizens of Naples and overwhelmed by such beauty, we humbly prostrate ourselves. Oh soul of Vincenzo Gemito, help us understand modern art!"

***For the latest breaking news and stories from across the globe from the Daily Star, sign up for our newsletters .***

## READ NEXT

- Tourist submarine carrying 44 at holiday hotspot sinks with multiple dead
- PIP claimants with these 'five conditions face being cut', DWP assessor says
- Lady Gaga announces four UK dates for Mayhem Ball – and tickets on sale in days
- 'Guaranteed goals' Ruben Amorim told two stars Man Utd must get in summer transfer window
- ChatGPT 'makes stuff up' university lecturer claims after AI chatbot confessed to lying

Follow Daily Star:
Facebook X (Twitter) TikTok Instagram
Comments 4

PIP claimants with these 'five conditions face being cut', DWP assessor says

ChatGPT 'makes stuff up' university lecturer claims after AI chatbot confessed to lying

Full list of everyone who qualifies for free bus pass after huge DWP rule change

'Gunman on the loose' at UK golf club as armed police swarm the scene

Lady Gaga announces four UK dates for Mayhem Ball – and tickets on sale in days

'Guaranteed goals' Ruben Amorim told two stars Man Utd must get in summer transfer window

Inside sick world of Dubai 'porta potty parties' with bodily fluids and marriage ban

Brit thrown out Thai brothel 'beaten to death by bouncers' after motorbike chase

What is a porta potty party? As gorgeous women 'targeted' by wealthy men in Dubai



Mystery as four 'vanished' US soldiers found dead near Belarus border

Vladimir Putin 'will die soon and that's a fact' says Zelenskyy after rumours over his health