

ONE

GRAIN OF RICE

45

designers, artists,
and craftspeople
led by

IAN ABELL
ALEX WELCH

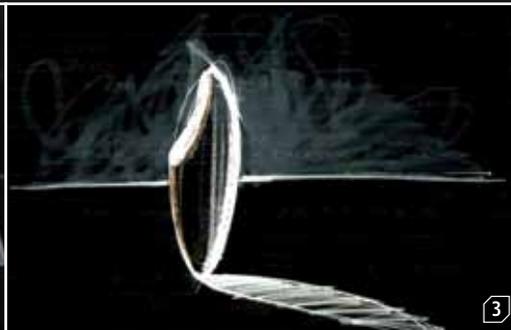
humble beginnings

From an ancient grain grew a monumental sculpture, a Based Upon project for HSBC

“RICE EVOKES THE IDEA OF A UNIT OF TRADE, THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATION OF COMMERCE” —Ian Abell



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4



5

1. Commissioned by the Cass Sculpture Foundation to commemorate the HSBC Group's 150th anniversary, Based Upon began research for the bronze *A Grain of Rice* by using a magnifying glass to study a single grain. 2. Ink sketches followed. 3. The foundation accepted the proposal, which included an iteration of this ink drawing. 4. The sculpture's 16 pieces were sand-cast, then welded and polished at the Pangolin Editions foundry. 5. Motifs etched into the bronze surface, with silicone-rubber molds, were inspired by materials from HSBC's archives. ➔

NINE
months of
research and
development

9 MONTHS OF
FABRICATION

TWENTY
FEET TALL

150 motifs
on the exterior
of the sculpture

CENTERfold



COURTESY OF BASED UPON

A Grain of Rice stands in the lobby at the HSBC Group headquarters, a Foster + Partners tower in London's Canary Wharf complex.

 [interiordesign.net/basedupon15](https://www.instagram.com/interiordesign.net/basedupon15)
for images of a similar sculpture in Hong Kong