

Artwork made by Year 9 students of Peutingen - Gymnasium, Ellwangen  
Photographs by Silke Schwab-Kruger

The Upper Germanic-Raetian Limes has been part of the transnational UNESCO World Heritage Site "Frontiers of the Roman Empire", together with Hadrian's Wall and Antonine's Wall in Great Britain since 2005. On the occasion of the 1900th anniversary of Hadrian's Wall, the project "Frontier Voices: A creative Exploration" was developed by artist Karen MacDougall working with Dr Nigel Mills.

Designed as an art-based, creative exploration of the perception of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, a year 9 class of the Peutingen-Gymnasium, Ellwangen has participated in an artistic realisation of their understanding of frontiers.

The concept is the exploration, expression and exchange of meanings, connections and perceptions of the Roman frontiers, including the connections between past and present. Karen was inspired by the Limestor building and the modern interpretation of the triumphal arch, which could serve as a screen to project today's frontier voices, linking past and present. This contemporary interpretation of the theme "frontier" was initiated at the museum by history teacher Andreas Schaaf and realised by art teacher Silke Schwab-Krüger, creating an exciting installation.

Karen 'Zoomed' digitally into the classroom to introduce the project, share the art outcomes from all the UK sites and then later to discuss the developing artwork with the students. They designed paper cutouts of various faces in black and white, which have been installed in the Limestor in Dalkingen. The heads represent characters that tell of positive and negative border experiences. At night the faces throw their shadows onto the illuminated replica of the Roman gate. The cutout faces show a contemporary interpretation of the topic 'frontier or border' and voice the young students' perspective in speech bubbles. The installation can be viewed at the Limestor until the New Year.

