



## Press Release

### **Sculpture Trail returns to RHS Garden Hyde Hall**

After a very successful first year, the Surrey Sculpture Society (SSS) has been invited back to the RHS Garden Hyde Hall at Chelmsford, Essex, to present their second annual Sculpture Trail from June 24th until 30th July, within one of the finest gardens in the East of England.

As one of the most renowned regional arts organisations in the country, the Society has over 250 members from across the South East of England, including Essex, Norfolk and Kent.

SSS Exhibition Manager Angie Doy commented on the success of the 2016 event: 'Last year visitors were surprised and delighted to find our members' work there. Many were locals who returned again and again with friends and family. Others came from around the South East, visiting many gardens along the way. Hyde Hall gardens are enormous and beautiful with stunning views. Our sculptors loved the new venue and we are all looking forward to returning this summer.'

The Society will be exhibiting the works of their talented emerging and professional sculptors, who create affordable and original pieces that can form eye-catching focal points in gardens, conservatories and interiors. Their many sculptures will be thoughtfully placed throughout the 360 acre gardens including in the hilltop, dry and woodland gardens and will give visitors the opportunity to see how sculpture can enhance any garden. This year there will be an additional indoor exhibition for smaller sculptures.

A trail guide will be given to visitors to lead them through each area of the gardens, where they will discover sculptures made in a diverse range of materials including bronze, resin, glass, metal, wood, stone, ceramic and found objects, with all sculptures for sale during the event.

Henriette Van der Does, Chair of the Surrey Sculpture Society commented:

'The Surrey Sculpture Society is delighted and proud to return to RHS Hyde Hall for a second year, building on the success from last year. This wonderful Garden forms the perfect setting for all sculptures, created in a large variety of materials by our artists who work in many different styles. One of the many benefits of membership of SSS is the opportunity to show our work in such prestigious locations and new members are always welcome.'

Hyde Hall's Head of Site, Ian Le Gros added "The sculpture exhibition was a very welcome addition to our summer schedule last year and feedback from visitors was exceptional. The garden provides the perfect backdrop for sculptures, with some pieces acting as focal points and others nestled amongst trees and flowers awaiting discovery. Needless to say, I'm thrilled to welcome them back this year "

RHS Garden Hyde Hall is the second RHS Garden to host a Surrey Sculpture Society exhibition. The Society will have their nineteenth annual sculpture trail at RHS Garden Wisley later in the summer.

**Admission to the Sculpture Trail included in entrance to RHS Hyde Hall.**

The exhibition opens on 24th June - 30th July

Opening times – 10am – 6pm (last entry 5pm)

RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Creep hedge Lane, Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 8ET

For details of entrance fees go to [rhs.org.uk/hydehall](http://rhs.org.uk/hydehall) or call 0845 265 8071

For information on Surrey Sculpture Society visit [www.surreysculpture.org.uk](http://www.surreysculpture.org.uk)

ENDS

**DROPBOX LINK TO A RANGE OF HIGH RES IMAGES:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a84txwkb1gb377z/AADsLVYalTyhGbDJUNEwg\\_Ula?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a84txwkb1gb377z/AADsLVYalTyhGbDJUNEwg_Ula?dl=0)

*For more information on this press release, further images or to arrange interviews with sculptors, please contact: Lynda Lawrence on 01420 87489 or email [lynda@lyndalawrence.co.uk](mailto:lynda@lyndalawrence.co.uk)*

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**Note for Editors:**

**About Surrey Sculpture Society**

From small beginnings – a group of just fourteen sculptors living in Surrey 22 years ago – the Surrey Sculpture Society has grown into a major force, now attracting considerable interest from the media and was recently featured on the BBC Radio 2 Claudia Winkleman Arts Show and on BBC One TV.

The SSS now has over 250 members spread across the South East of England and further afield across the UK, encompassing both professionals and talented emerging sculptors. It aims to promote interaction between sculptors, to organise exhibitions and to encourage an appreciation of sculpture.

The society stages major events in prestigious venues including RHS Wisley, Beaulieu, Guildford Cathedral, Fulham Palace, The Landmark Arts Centre and other renowned locations.

**About the RHS**

The Royal Horticultural Society was founded in 1804 by Sir Joseph Banks and John Wedgwood to inspire passion and excellence in the science, art and practice of horticulture. Our vision is to enrich everyone's life through plants, and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place. We believe everyone in every village, town and city should benefit from growing plants to enhance lives, build stronger, healthier, happier communities and create better places to live.

We held our first flower show in 1820, were granted a Royal Charter in 1861 and acquired RHS Garden Wisley, our flagship garden, in 1903. From our first meetings in a small room off London's Piccadilly, we have grown to become the world's largest gardening charity.

At our gardens and shows, through our scientific research, website, publications, libraries, education and community programmes we inspire a passion for gardening and growing plants. We're committed to promoting the value of gardens, demonstrating how gardening is good for us and explaining the vital role that plants play in a sustainable world.

The RHS is committed to bring the joy of gardening to millions more people, inspire the next generation of gardeners and invest in the future to safeguard a £10.4 billion industry employing more than 300,000 people. We are entirely funded by our members, visitors and supporters. RHS membership is for anyone with an interest in gardening. Support the RHS and help us secure a healthy future for gardening. For more information call: 020 3176 5820, or visit [www.rhs.org.uk/join](http://www.rhs.org.uk/join).

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