



## Press Release

# **Popular Sculpture Event Returns to RHS Garden Wisley for 21st year**

The Surrey Sculpture Society (SSS) will be staging its 21st Sculpture Trail at RHS Garden Wisley from **18th August - 23rd September** - one of the most popular exhibitions of sculpture in the country.

Visitors to the sculpture trail will discover a diverse range of works, from abstract to traditional pieces, thoughtfully positioned throughout the RHS garden's 240 acres, within 25 inspirational garden settings. Sculptures created by the Society's emerging and professional sculptors will be placed around the garden's iconic Jellicoe Canal feature, through the woodland walk at Battleston Hill and the Mediterranean Terraces, Bowes-Lyon Rose Garden, Alpine Meadow, Exotic and Cottage Gardens.

### **Henriette Van der Does, Chair of the SSS commented:**

*'The Arts Council recently compiled some interesting figures on the increasing numbers of people visiting sculpture events. Last year the Surrey Sculpture Society experienced higher visitor numbers to all of our events resulting in our most successful year since we began. We are hoping that our 21st annual Sculpture Trail at RHS Garden Wisley will attract even more visitors, as there seems to be a growing desire for people to get outside to reconnect with nature and discover art in beautiful settings.'*

The range of styles by these talented sculptors creates affordable and original pieces that can form eye-catching focal points in gardens, conservatories or interiors. Sculptors work with a broad range of materials including stone, metal, bronze, resin, glass, ceramic, wood and found objects. All sculptures are for sale.

### **Renowned Sculptor invited as guest exhibitor**

To celebrate the 21st sculpture trail at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey Sculpture Society has invited renowned sculptor Michael Speller, official artist for the London Olympics, as a special guest exhibitor. His beautifully balanced slender sculptural figures are often impressed with emotive words. One of his most recent commissions combined 210 figures to form a huge open bronze sphere for The Crown Charity, Greenwich Hospital, London. Michael's work has also formed the centre piece of gold medal winning show garden at RHS Chelsea.

*Henriette Van der Does commented: 'We are very excited about having such an accomplished and highly respected sculptor as Michael Speller exhibiting with us in our 21st year at RHS Garden Wisley.'*

Belinda Betts, Head of Site at RHS Garden Wisley, said: "The Surrey Sculpture Society Trail is a popular attraction for many of our visitors. Now in its 21st year, the trail continues to showcase a diverse variety of sculptures within the beautiful setting of the garden in late summer. Look for the sculptures as you wander through the garden and discover an exciting new perspective."

*Admission to the Sculpture Trail is included in entrance to RHS Garden Wisley.*

**The exhibition opens on 18th August and will run until 23<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Opening times: Monday to Friday 10am – 6pm, Saturday – Sunday and Bank Holidays 9am – 6pm**

**RHS Garden Wisley, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB Tel: 01483 224234 or [www.rhs.org.uk/wisley](http://www.rhs.org.uk/wisley) for details of entrance fees.**

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

**ENDS**

**DROPBOX LINK TO A RANGE OF 30 HIGH RES IMAGES:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jnm9j9cqw0eyjl/AABCQ7JSyZg7SJgzg0lJ9g6la?dl=0>

*For more information on this press release, further images or to arrange interviews with sculptors, please contact:*

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*or for comment or further information from RHS Garden Wisley please contact:*

**Georgina Duff, Marketing and PR Executive on 01483 212306 or [georginaduff@rhs.org.uk](mailto:georginaduff@rhs.org.uk)**

**Note for Editors:**

### **About Surrey Sculpture Society**

From small beginnings the Surrey Sculpture Society has grown into a major force, now attracting considerable interest from the media and has been featured on the BBC Radio 2 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 annually in prestigious venues including RHS Wisley, RHS Hyde Hall, Beaulieu, Guildford Cathedral, Fulham Palace, The Landmark Arts Centre at Teddington and at the Surrey Hills Sculpture Garden, as well as at other renowned locations.

## **About the RHS**

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) 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, healthier, happier 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 shows 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 and through our scientific research, publications, libraries and our education and community programmes we inspire a passion for gardening and growing plants, promote the value of gardens, demonstrate how gardening is good for us and explain the vital roles that plants undertake.

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 £15 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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