



Press Release

Surrey Hills Sculpture Trail & Arts Festival in partnership with the Surrey Sculpture Society

A major arts event that will bring a month of sculpture and art to the Surrey Hills, will open to the public from **Saturday 4th May until Sunday 2nd June** at the Birtley Estate in Bramley, near Guildford.

Staged by Surrey Hills Enterprises in partnership with the Surrey Sculpture Society, the event celebrates the stunning Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and showcases local sculptors and artists and the enjoyment of experiencing art within a natural setting

The Surrey Hills Sculpture Trail and Arts Festival will feature the largest ephemeral Sculpture Trail in Surrey, with a fresh and dynamic range of sculptures from talented artists from the Surrey Sculpture Society. The 160 new sculptures will be set within the stunning landscape of woodlands, meadows and lakeside. A marquee located on the lakeside meadow will also hold an indoor exhibition and café that will provide a base for visitors during the day.

Visitors to the event will also be able to enjoy a range of workshops and demonstrations as part of the Surrey Sculpture Society's 'Understanding Sculpture' programme of events, plus other arts and crafts demonstrations from Surrey Hills Enterprises members.

The Feature Artist for the event will be West Horsley based glass artist Adam Aaronson, a consummate colourist who is inspired by the beauty of the Surrey Hills as well as the Impressionist painters - Turner, Whistler and Monet. There will also be three artists from Guildford's Twin Town of Freiburg exhibiting at the event.

Cream teas and light refreshments, profiling local food and drink, will also be part of the event. Visitors can also bring picnics and enjoy the art and inspiring sculptures in the beautiful landscape, which also features woodland and lakeside walks.

Simon Whalley, Chairman of Surrey Hills Enterprises, a Community Interest Company, commented: *'Last year's event proved to be a great day out for families and groups of friends and attracted an additional 25% footfall on the previous year. Surrey has such a strong history of art and culture and we are hoping to attract even more visitors this year. We will have an inspiring range of new sculptures, a woodland trail, courses and demonstrations, with tickets enabling visitors to return as often as they like throughout the exhibition'*.

It is an important year for the Surrey Sculpture Society as it will be the organisation's 25th Anniversary and their emerging and professional sculptors have been busy creating over 160 sculptures

for the Society's first event of this special year. Henriette Van der Does, Chair of the Surrey Sculpture Society commented: *'We are very excited to organise the Surrey Hills Sculpture Garden again, the first major exhibition on the SSS calendar during its 25th Anniversary year. The gardens at the Birtley Estate are wonderfully suited to accommodate the varied creative output of our members, offering sweeping lawns, intimate wall spaces, formal gardens and an orchard.'*

Exhibition manager and SSS member, Diana Pattenden commented:

'The quality, range in subject and materials of the sculptures that will be on display is amazing. Visitors will see bronzes, both foundry and cold-cast bronze resin, welded metal, ceramic, wood, glass and stone carvings in a range of sizes. Signature pieces like the Inner Tree by Teresa Martin will stop you in your tracks. Alison Catchlove uses small pieces of metal welded and coloured to form exquisite sculptures like a hummingbird hovering.'

'Classic figurative work shows great knowledge of the human and animal forms that have inspired artists through history. Quirky humorous pieces will bring a wry smile. If like me you have visited the sculpture trail every year for the last decade or more, you'll know that the experience is very life enhancing. It's a great opportunity to spend a day with friends. Whether or not you are building your collection or buying for the first time, one thing that will happen is that you will be transformed and take away a memory of beautiful, intriguing and well crafted sculpture that is pure poetry in form.'

Demonstrations and Workshops

There will be a comprehensive range of demonstrations and workshops as part of the Surrey Sculpture Society's 'Understanding Sculpture' programme, which will include:

4 May am: Lynette Merrick, 'Have a go at Sculpture' for all ages
5 May pm: Lynette Merrick, 'Have a go at Sculpture' for all ages
7 May pm Katie Netley, 'Play with Clay'
9 May am: Friedel Beucking, 'Chainsaw Demonstration'
9 May pm: Sue Ribbans, 'The Art of Paperclay'
10 May pm: Katie Netley, 'Play with Clay'
14 May am: Asta Kalpokaite Golias, 'Workshop in Clay'
16 May am: Sue Ribbans, 'The Art of Paperclay'
16 May pm: Friedel Beucking: 'Chainsaw demonstration'
22 May am: Asta Kalpokaite Golias, 'Workshop in Clay'
30 May am: Friedel Beucking: 'Chainsaw Demonstration'
30 May pm: Sue Ribbans, 'The Art of Paperclay'

Plus a wide range of additional Arts and Crafts Demonstrations from Surrey Hills Enterprises members.

Supporting Local Food and Drinks Producers

Cream teas and light refreshments, profiling local food and drink, will also be part of the event or visitors can bring picnics and enjoy the beautiful landscape and inspiring sculptures.

This unique event also allows visitors who have bought tickets to use the tickets to return to and gain free access to the event on another day.

Dates: Saturday 4th May to Sunday 2nd June

Venue information: Birtley Estate, Bramley, Guildford GU5 0LB

Times: Open from 10am - 4.30pm daily.

Find out more visit:

www.surreyhills.org/events/surrey-hills-sculpture-garden-arts-festival-2019/

Tel: 01483 661150

Cost: BOOK AHEAD: £7 in advance or £8 on the day – you don't have to specify the day and the tickets allow unlimited re-entry over the month

Under 12's FREE / Parking FREE

Tickets available from Guildford Tourist Information Centre 01483 444334 155 High Street, Guildford GU1 3AJ www.tickets.visitguildford.com

For more on the SSS visit www.surreysculpture.org.uk

ENDS

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

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/z7i43ojs1ot0518/AACMk7bu23STJuEauPx5hthfa?dl=0>

Surrey Sculpture Society contacts:

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

SSS - Lynda Lawrence on 01420 87489 or email lynda@lyndalawrence.co.uk

SSS Exhibition Manager Diana Pattenden at diana@dianapattenden.co.uk mobile 07887 844981

SSS Chair - Henriette Van der Does at hvddoesart@gmail.com mobile 07828 579042

Surrey Hills Sculpture Garden/Birtley Estate contacts:

Wendy Varcoe, Executive Director

email - wendy@surreyhillsenterprises.co.uk

01483 661150 mobile 07884 000188

About Surrey Sculpture Society

From small beginnings the Surrey Sculpture Society has grown over the last 25 years to become a major arts organisation, 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 hosts a series of public lectures and has staged major sculpture events in prestigious venues including RHS Wisley, RHS Hyde Hall, Beaulieu, Guildford Cathedral, Fulham Palace, Surrey Hills Sculpture Garden, The Savill Gardens and the Landmark Arts Centre as well as at other renowned locations.

About Surrey Hills Enterprises

Surrey Hills Sculpture Garden is run by Surrey Hills Enterprises, as part of a range of activities and events promoting and supporting the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Surrey Hills Enterprises works with local businesses to support the rural economy and to promote, protect and enhance the beautiful Surrey Hills. As a Community Interest Company, funds generated from its work go back to support the work of enhancing Surrey Hills, its landscape and local communities.

About Feature Artist - Adam Aaronson

Adam Aaronson has been at the heart of British studio glass for nearly 40 years, first running galleries dedicated to glass art and subsequently as a glass artist in his own right, learning how to create glass art later in his career and developing self-taught methods. Adam is a skilled maker and a truly diverse and talented glass artist. He is constantly experimenting with techniques and exploring new ideas, including the potential of large sculptural works designed for the outdoors.

Adam Aaronson Glass Studio
Foxbury Barn
Epsom Road
West Horsley KT24 6AR
Tel: 01483 375035
Email: adam@adamaaronson.com