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## Press Release

# **RHS Garden Wisley to host Surrey Sculpture Society's 20th Anniversary Sculpture Trail**

The Surrey Sculpture Society (SSS) will be staging one of the largest Sculpture Trails in the country at RHS Garden Wisley from **19th August - 24th September**. The trail will feature the works of both new emerging and highly acclaimed established sculptors, showing over 80 sculptures set within the internationally renowned gardens.

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

*'2017 is a very special occasion for the Surrey Sculpture Society at RHS Wisley since we organised our first ever show in 1997, now 20 years ago. The original trail consisted of 55 pieces by 27 different artists and was received with mixed reactions from the public ('what was sculpture doing in a place for plants?') Since then, much has changed. Today we will be showing over 80 pieces by as many as 68 different sculptors, with a great variety in subject matter and sizes, supported by a huge following of many loyal art lovers of the sculpture trail. I am very proud to be the Chair of the SSS in this significant year and I hope that the trail will again exceed its successes of the previous years, both in the warm reception from the public as well as its sales.'*

### **Teresa Martin the SSS Exhibition Manager for the event commented:**

*'Our new Sculpture Trail for 2017 walks elegantly up Battleston Hill, just a short way to the BowesLyon Rose Garden enjoying the iconic mixed borders, through the scented climbers on the pergolas and descends again to the water gardens. We hope that visitors will be struck by the contrast in styles and materials produced by our talented sculptors. We will be following in the footsteps of the very first SSS trial at Wisley, 20 years ago, when Don Foxley's sculpture, 'Naissance', stood at the top of Battleston Hill. For this year's trail Don has created a sister piece especially for this anniversary and a similar half sized form called 'Enlightenment'.*

*'New members, Denise Jaques's, 'Shards' sparkle with vibrant designs and Adam Warwick Hall's striking mechanical animal combinations cast an original slant for the sculpture by the lake. Some strong spacial statements are made by the dynamic metal pieces, including Julia Grose's copper and steel 'Bullrushes' which could be used as a spectacular water feature. Visitors can also meet the sculptors at the end of the trail and discuss their favourites and find out about the techniques used.'*

The many talented emerging artists and gifted professional sculptors within the Society, create affordable and original pieces that can form eye-catching focal points in gardens, conservatories or interiors. The sculptors work with a broad range of materials including stone, metal, bronze, resin, glass, ceramic, wood and found objects.

The Sculpture Trail will give visitors to RHS Garden Wisley the chance to discover a wide range of sculptures located throughout the grounds of this world class garden, with all sculptures for sale.

**Stephanie Fudge, Head of RHS Garden Wisley, commented:** 'We are thrilled to host the Surrey Sculpture Society Trail again this year at RHS Garden Wisley. The artistic exhibit provides our visitors with the opportunity to view inspirational sculptures within the beautiful setting of the garden as the summer season comes to an end and autumn begins.'

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

**The exhibition opens on 19th August and will run until 24<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/a9nuxg478x2mdt1/AABITwKanwaJrFx7GRtuKD-6a?dl=0>

***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](mailto:lynda@lyndalawrence.co.uk)***

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

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**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 and the Landmark Arts Centre as well as at other renowned locations.

**About the RHS**

The Royal Horticultural Society was founded in 1804 by Sir Joseph Banks and John Wedgwood for the encouragement and improvement of the science, art and practice of horticulture. We held our first flower shows in 1820, were granted a Royal Charter in 1861 and acquired RHS Garden Wisley, the first of our gardens, 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.

Today the RHS is committed to providing a voice for all gardeners. We are driven by a simple love of plants and a belief that gardeners make the world a better place. 210 years on we continue to safeguard and advance the science, art and practice of horticulture, creating displays that inspire people to garden. In all aspects of our work we help gardeners develop by sharing our knowledge of plants, gardens and the environment.

**RHS membership is for anyone with an interest in gardening. Support the RHS and secure a healthy future for gardening. For more information call: 0845 130 4646, or visit [www.rhs.org.uk/join](http://www.rhs.org.uk/join) RHS Registered Charity No. 222879/SC038262**