



Press Release

Sculpture Trail returns to RHS Garden Hyde Hall for third year

The Surrey Sculpture Society (SSS) will be returning for the third year to stage one of the largest sculpture trails in the country at RHS Garden Hyde Hall at Chelmsford, Essex, considered to be one of the finest gardens in the east of England, from **23rd June until 22nd July**.

As one of the most renowned regional arts organisations in the country, SSS has extended its membership to include sculptors from all across the South of England, with members in Essex, Norfolk and Kent.

Sculptures created by both emerging and professional sculptors, will be exhibited throughout various areas of the garden's 360 acres including the iconic Dry Gardens, Hilltop and Woodland and throughout the new Global Growth Vegetable Garden.

SSS Exhibition Manager Angie Doy has seen how the gardens have evolved over the last few years and commented:

'Since the first SSS exhibition in 2016, we have literally seen the gardens at Hyde Hall grow. Every time I visit I see something new and start to plan where the next sculpture trail will take us. The site offers stunning areas through which our sculptures flow, creating different atmospheres in a variety of open and intimate areas. This year we will be altering the trail to take advantage of the new vegetable garden, which is proving very popular.'

'Working with Hyde Hall is an absolute pleasure. They are like one big family, with garden staff who create and tend the planting and indoor staff who, with equal care, tend to their visitors. The care taken by all is the reason that Hyde Hall is such a wonderful place to visit and why visitor numbers are growing each year. We were particularly delighted to hear that visitors had come back specifically to see the Sculpture Trail, and this enthusiasm translated into increased sculpture sales in 2017. With some Saturdays during June and July offering Theatre and Music, why wouldn't you want to walk around the gardens and enjoy art in all its forms?'

A trail guide will be given to visitors to lead them through each area of the gardens, where they will discover affordable and original sculptures made in a diverse range of materials including bronze, resin, glass, metal, wood, stone, ceramic and found objects. Visitors will be able to see how sculptures can form eye-catching focal points in gardens, conservatories and interiors, 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 to be back at RHS Hyde Hall for a third year running. We would like to welcome the public to come and enjoy a wide variety of sculptures, both in subject as well as medium, from our many talented emerging and professional artists. All sculpture will

be for sale. In this special and beautiful place, with its wide variety of different areas of natural beauty we plan to merge the art of sculpture with the magic of nature for a special visit from the end of June and throughout July.'

Hyde Hall's Head of Site, Ian Le Gros, said:

'Summer at Hyde Hall just wouldn't be the same without the Surrey Sculpture Society. The pieces look fantastic against the back-drop of the garden and they enhance the overall visitor experience no end.'

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

The exhibition opens from 23rd June - 22nd 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/gardens/hyde-hall or call 01245 400 256

For information on Surrey Sculpture Society visit www.surreysculpture.org.uk

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DROPBOX LINK TO A RANGE OF HIGH RES IMAGES:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ojhzdqp9m3rzpn/AApWoxBhj_E94SI5aybM2Ha?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

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Note for Editors:

About Surrey Sculpture Society

From small beginnings – a group of just fourteen sculptors living in Surrey 23 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.

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