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Press Release

## **Exciting sculptures intermingle with intriguing plants at the Surrey Sculpture Society's 22nd annual Sculpture Trail at RHS Garden Wisley**

2019 is set to be a very special year for the Surrey Sculpture Society (SSS) as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary, and returning to RHS Garden Wisley for the 22nd annual Sculpture Trail from **17th August - 22nd September**.

Henriette van der Does, Chair of the SSS commented: *'The Surrey Sculpture Society is celebrating 25 years of creativity and of course our yearly exhibition at RHS Garden Wisley cannot be missing from our celebratory calendar. Although we have been setting up sculpture trails at Wisley for 22 years now, it never fails to excite us. Wisley is an amazing place where magic can be made between art and nature. The setting is beautiful and offers different areas for different styles or themes of sculpture to be set in the perfect spot, thus enhancing the beauty of both.'*

There will be a new route for the sculpture trail this year, created by long term SSS member and sculptor Carol Orwin, who commented: *'For this special year we have designed a very different experience for visitors. We will be incorporating the route down through the Exotic Garden. This is a really exciting addition to the trail allowing for sculptures to intermingle with unusual plants. Visitors can also come and meet the sculptors who are stewarding the event in the Waterlily Pavilion at the end of the Jellecoe Canal.'*

The sculptures are created by the Surrey Sculpture Society's emerging and professional sculptors and visitors will discover a diverse range of works, from abstract to traditional pieces that have been created from a wide selection of materials including bronze, resin, wood, metal, glass, stone and found objects.

The SSS members have created 110 sculptures for the event, which will be thoughtfully positioned throughout the RHS Garden Wisley's 240 acres within 25 inspirational garden settings and all sculptures will be for sale.

**Belinda Betts, Head of Site of RHS Garden Wisley, said:**

## **RHS GARDEN WISLEY QUOTE TO BE ADDED HERE**

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

**The exhibition opens on 17th August and will run until 22<sup>nd</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 HIGH RES IMAGES:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w150lq8aa08ugjt/AACk-IQGG17ZC3UAWPYzclZFa?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:*

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## **Note for Editors:**

### **About Surrey Sculpture Society**

From small beginnings 25 years ago 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 in prestigious venues including RHS Wisley, RHS Hyde Hall, Beaulieu, Guildford Cathedral, Fulham Palace, The Landmark Arts Centre at Teddington, The Surrey Hills Sculpture Garden, the National Trust's Hatchlands Park and The Savill Garden on the Crown Estate at Windsor Great Park, 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**