



24 FEBRUARY 2015

NEW LANDMARK SCULPTURES PLANNED FOR THE FOREST OF DEAN SCULPTURE TRAIL

The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail has been awarded funding for a series of new artworks. The new sculptures are to be installed in 2016, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Trail.

The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust, a registered charity that works in close partnership with the Forestry Commission, will oversee the new additions to the Trail. The Trust has also won additional investment from the Arts Council England, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Gloucestershire Environmental Trust.

A shortlist of some of the UK's most exciting early-career artists have been invited to put forward ideas for the first sculpture in the new series. The selected artists include: **Jonathan Baldock**, **Anne Bevan**, **Henry Castle** and **Semiconductor** (artist duo Ruth Jarman and Joe Gerhardt).

This month will see the shortlisted artists visit the Forest to form a proposal for a new work inspired by the 4.5 mile-long trail. One proposal will be selected for development and presented to the public in the summer of 2016.

In addition to this first major new commission the Trust will be revealing details of plans for more temporary and permanent artworks later this year.

The newly funded programme will continue the Trust's long-respected tradition of commissioning ambitious artworks directly inspired by the unique heritage and natural environment of the Forest of Dean. Past commissions include acclaimed works by David Nash, Peter Randall-Page, Cornelia Parker and Annie Cattrell at crucial stages in their early-careers.

"This is a timely programme of high quality new sculpture, created in response to the unique landscape of the Forest of Dean. It builds on the success of the much loved and exceptional collection of works on the trail. The selected artists will have a

special opportunity to create surprising new interventions in the forest for hundreds of thousands of visitors enjoy for years to come.” Hayley Skipper, Curator of Arts Development for Forestry Commission England and selection panel member.

Since opening in 1986, the Sculpture Trail has made a unique contribution to Gloucestershire’s tourism offer and the local economy, attracting 300,000 visitors from around the world each year.

The Trail currently has 18 sculptures of international importance made from various materials. Examples include Kevin Atherton's 15 foot by 10 foot stained glassed window 'Cathedral' which hangs high in the canopy over the heads of walkers and Neville Gabie’s Raw, a giant cube assembled from the entire mass of an oak tree.

“The Gloucestershire Environmental Trust is pleased to be offered a second opportunity to support a creative new work for the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail. The Trail is a unique window on the Forest. It should be applauded for promoting the best of contemporary sculptural practice, but it also should take a bow for opening up a stimulating Forest experience for hundreds of thousands of visitors of all ages, each year. It is a great asset for Gloucestershire.” David Ball, Trustee, Gloucestershire Environmental Trust.

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Editors' notes:

Visitor Information: The Royal Forest of Dean is situated on the English and South Wales border, 120 miles west of London (via the M4), 65 miles from Birmingham (via the M5), and 35 from Bristol to the centre of the Forest.

The Sculpture Trail is 4.5 miles long and starts and ends at Beechenhurst Lodge, off the B4226. It is open dusk to dawn every day of the year and there is no admission charge.

The **Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust** in partnership with the Forestry Commission, aims to: create experiences and enjoyment of world-renowned contemporary sculpture that responds to the special context of this Forest; provide free and open access to all to contemporary sculpture; provide unique opportunities for artists to make sculptures which are informed by a sustained engagement with the Forest.

www.forestofdean-sculpture.org.uk

Forestry Commission England is recognised and respected as an international leader in sustainable forestry. Working with others we look after the country's trees, woods and forests for the good of everyone - today and for the future. Our reputation has been built on our expertise and our ability to achieve results that benefit people's lives. These benefits include the unique Public Forest Estate where millions of visitors enjoy a wide range of recreational activities every year.

www.forestry.gov.uk/visit

We believe that **Forest Art Works**. Since 1968 England's Public Forest Estate has played host to artworks and initiatives across artforms. We believe that woodlands and forests are vital places for contemporary artists to engage with, to make and present new work. Forest Art Works is a new partnership between Arts Council England and Forestry Commission England to support achieving great art and culture for everyone in England's public forests.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestartworks>

Gloucestershire Environmental Trust

The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust is being supported by a grant from the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust with landfill tax contributions by Cory

Environmental. The Trust continues to be one of the largest sources of grant aid for a wide range of projects across Gloucestershire. <http://www.glos-environment-trust.co.uk>

Arts Council England

The Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust is being supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. To find out more about the Arts Council visit artscouncil.org.uk

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation:

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to improve the quality of life for people and communities throughout the UK both now and in the future. We do this by funding the charitable work of organisations with the ideas and ability to achieve positive change.

The Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-makers in the UK. We make grants of £30 - £35 million annually towards a wide range of work within the arts, education and learning, the environment and social change. We also operate a £26 million Finance Fund which invests in organisations that aim to deliver both a financial return and a social benefit. <http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk>

Artist Biographies

Jonathan Baldock

Jonathan Baldock (1980, UK) recent solo shows include: The Soft Machine, Chapter, Cardiff (2014), *Warm Bodies*, (2 person show with Olga Balema), Kunstvereniging Diepenheim, (NL), Multiple points in this crude landscape, Primary, Nottingham (2014); Hot Spots, The Apartment, Vancouver, Canada (2014); and A Strange mix between a Butcher's Shop and a Nightclub, Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridge, UK (2013). Group shows include; Two Figures in a Landscape (choreographed by Rubato Dance Group), Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2013); ARE YOU ALRIGHT? New Art From Britain, Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA), Toronto, CA (2013). Forthcoming shows include: (solo) Nicelle Beauchene, New York (U.S), Peer Gallery, London, The De La Warr Pavillion, Bexhill (UK), and La Galerie centre d'art contemporain, Paris (Fr).

Anne Bevan

Anne Bevan is an Orkney-based artist whose work explores hidden or unseen things, histories and systems within our environment. Combining sculpture with photography, video, sound and text, she works collaboratively with writers, poets and people from other disciplines, most recently with marine scientists researching microbiology, engineers working with wave and tidal energy, and with archaeologists in Orkney.

She has exhibited widely in museums and galleries in the UK and internationally and has also installed temporary and permanent commissioned works in public outdoor spaces such as Tyrebagger Forest in Aberdeenshire, Stromness harbour and Mohni Island in Estonia.

Henry Castle

Henry was born in 1987 and currently lives in London. He studied at the University of Gloucestershire and Wimbledon School of Art graduating in 2010, with The Landmark Sculpture Prize.

He was subsequently chosen to exhibit in the Anticipation exhibition, selected by Kay Saatchi, showcasing the best of London's graduates of that year, and shortly after won a residency at the Jupiterartland sculpture park near Edinburgh, which culminated in a major commission for their collection, Hare Hill, which was installed in 2012.

He has since been involved in a long term project at Rubislaw quarry in Aberdeen, making works in response to Europe's largest manmade "hole".

Henry's work embodies a sense of place through a distillation of personal and often solitary experience and the excavation of the history of a landscape, and is realized in a direct engagement with concept, materials and processes.

Semiconductor

Semiconductor is UK artist duo Ruth Jarman and Joe Gerhardt. In their art works they explore the material nature of our world and how we experience it through the lens of science and technology, questioning how they mediate our experiences. Their unique approach has won them many awards and prestigious fellowships including; *Samsung Art + Prize 2012* for new media, *Smithsonian Artists Research Fellowship*

and a *NASA Space Sciences Fellowship*. Exhibitions and screenings include *Let There Be Light*, House of Electronic Arts, Basel (solo show); *Worlds in the Making*, FACT, Liverpool (solo show); *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future*, ArtScience Museum, Singapore; *Field Conditions*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; *Earth; Art of a Changing World*, Royal Academy of Arts, London; International Film Festival Rotterdam; New York Film Festival; Sundance Film Festival and European Media Art Festival. Their first public sculpture *Cosmos* was unveiled in October 2014 commissioned by Jerwood Open Forest.