

Wednesday 29th April 2015

Henry Castle wins major commission for Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail

Henry Castle has been selected to develop a major new artwork for the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail.



The new work is due to be completed and open to the public in early summer 2016.

“Henry is a young artist who creates highly original sculptures that respond to their specific locations. He uses a process of enquiry and exploration to reveal hidden aspects of place. Based on his initial proposal the Trust are very excited by the prospect of a new work of sculpture that will resonate powerfully with the people, history and geography of the Forest of Dean” Andrew Stonyer, Chair, Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust

Henry Castle follows in the footsteps of artists such as David Nash and Cornelia Parker, who made artworks for the Trail in early stages of their careers. Castle was born in Bath in 1987, and brought up in Malmesbury, North Wiltshire, he later studied art at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham before winning the Landmark Art Prize upon graduating from Wimbledon College of Art in London. His recent commissions include a major permanent artwork for Jupiterartland in Edinburgh and a series of works at Rubislaw quarry in Aberdeen.

“My work responds to particular places in the landscape and it is a privilege to be invited to this unique forest as context and inspiration for making sculpture. Having made so many discoveries already about the history and the geology of this incredibly interesting place I am very much looking forward to spending a great deal of time in The Forest during the coming year and seeing what other secrets it throws up, as the work moves forward.” Henry Castle.

The project is being managed in close partnership with the Forestry Commission and is the first in a series of four artworks planned for the Trail following investment from Arts Council England, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Gloucestershire Environmental Trust.



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Editor's notes:

Henry Castle Henry was born in 1987 and currently lives in London. He studied at the University of Gloucestershire and Wimbledon College 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.

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.

Visitor Information for the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail: 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.

Since opening in 1986, the Sculpture Trail has become a regular destination for local people and visitors from across the UK attracting over 300,000 people annually.

The Trail currently has 16 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 **Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust** is a registered charity and works 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/forestworks>

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>