

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Surrey Sculpture Society's Summer Exhibition to open at the re-nowned and recently restored Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens**

The Surrey Sculpture Society has exhibited at many renowned venues in the last 25 years and will be stepping over the county border into West Sussex, to launch their summer exhibition at the Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens, near Horsham. It will be the first time that the Society will be staging a major exhibition at the magnificent Grade 1 listed garden, which has undergone the largest garden restoration in England.

The event will open on **30th July and run until 5th September**, with the sculpture trail nestled in the Leonardslee estate. Visitors can delight in 240 acres of spectacular gardens, including seven tranquil lakes, parkland, and woodland created by Sir Edmond Loder, the great Victorian plant hunter and previous owner of Leonardslee. The venue also boasts exceptional visitor facilities with five food venues, a farm shop and garden centre.

Visitors will be able to discover over 80 diverse sculptures strategically located within this beautiful setting, as well as the abundance of wildlife at Leonardslee, including wallabies and a deer park.

Created by both established and emerging artists, the sculptures will be in a wide range of materials including bronze, resin, glass, metal, wood, stone, ceramic and found objects.

*Surrey Sculpture Society's Chair Nick Baker commented:*

*"Leonardslee has embraced outdoor sculpture on a grand scale and invited the SSS to devise a trail that not only shows off the art, but also complements the many beautiful areas of this fantastic venue. We will have dedicated stewards on hand to answer any questions regarding the sculptures and all pieces will be available for purchase should visitors fall in love with one or two!"*

*Leonardslee Estate Manager Adam Streeter commented: "We are delighted to welcome the Surrey Sculpture Society to Leonardslee, which is gaining a reputation as a major arts venue in the South of England, especially as a venue for outdoor sculptures."*

*SSS Leonardslee Exhibition Manager, Abby Martin commented:*

*"Our exhibiting artists are all looking forward to seeing visitors immersed in the beautiful surroundings and wildlife at Leonardslee Gardens as they follow our sculpture trail. Maybe meeting up with friends and family for an overdue catch-up, able to appreciate human company again, as expressed by many of our sculptures including Seamus Cuddihy's "Side by Side" and Marion Ironmonger's "Yakop-(Embrace)."*

#### **New Audio Tour 'Listening Gardens' App for SSS Leonardslee exhibition**

As an additional feature, visitors to the Surrey Sculpture Society's exhibition at Leonardslee Gardens will also be able to enjoy an Audio tour of the sculpture trail, which will allow them to hear what the artists have to say about their work as they walk around the exhibition. Partnering with Marty Lowell of Listening Gardens, the audio tour will be accessible via the Listening Gardens App which is free to download for both Apple and Android users. Just download the app or scan the

QR Code attached to listen to the audio trail at <https://listeninggardens.stgry.app/>. Posters with QR code information will also be available at the event.

## QR CODE



Admission to the Surrey Sculpture Society's Sculpture Trail is included in the entrance to Leonardslee Lakes and Gardens at Horsham RH13 6PR.

Opening Dates and Times:

30th July - 5th September 2021

Opening times: 9am - 5pm (last entry 3.30pm)

For details of entrance fees and visitor information: visit: [www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk](http://www.leonardsleegardens.co.uk)

For information on Surrey Sculpture Society visit [www.surreysculpture.org.uk](http://www.surreysculpture.org.uk)

ENDS

**DROPBOX LINK TO A RANGE OF IMAGES:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lzq7ueism7sxf8n/AADD\\_Unzs1NDa68C3WGyZIV8a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lzq7ueism7sxf8n/AADD_Unzs1NDa68C3WGyZIV8a?dl=0)

**SSS CONTACTS:**

*For more information on this press release, further images or to arrange interviews with sculptors, please contact:*

***IN THE FIRST INSTANCE PLEASE CONTACT Lynda Lawrence and or Caroline Wheaton***

***SSS PR/Publicity - Lynda Lawrence on 01420 87489 or email [lynda@lyndalawrence.co.uk](mailto:lynda@lyndalawrence.co.uk)***

***SSS Communications Co-ordinator - Caroline Wheaton 07875 527380***

***[cfwheaton@gmail.com](mailto:cfwheaton@gmail.com)***

***SSS Exhibition Manager - Abby Martin - [atmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:atmartin@hotmail.com)***

***SSS Social Media - Juliette Derwent - [juliette\\_derwent@talktalk.net](mailto:juliette_derwent@talktalk.net)***

***Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SurreySculptureSociety>***

***Twitter - @SurreySculptors***

***Instagram - @SurreySculptureSociety #SurreySculptureSociety***

Background Information for Editors: **About Surrey Sculpture Society:**

From small beginnings a group of just fourteen sculptors living in Surrey 26 years ago – the Surrey Sculpture Society has grown into a major force, now attracting considerable interest from the media and been featured on the BBC Radio 2 Arts Show, on BBC One TV and across the arts, gardening and regional media.

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 Garden Wisley, RHS Garden Hyde Hall, the Nation Trust's Hatchlands, The Savill Garden at Windsor Great Park, Beau-lieu's Stately Home and Motor Museum, Guildford Cathedral, Fulham Palace, Ramster Garden, The Landmark Arts Centre and other renowned locations.