

PRESS RELEASE

SCULPTURE AT THE GROVE, Hertfordshire In the Gardens and Grounds | May – August 2011 Curator: Virginia Grub



May 2011 – This summer sees a major exhibition of sculpture in the gardens and grounds of The Grove (www.thegrove.co.uk/sculpture), the 5-star hotel and resort in Hertfordshire set on the former estate of the Earls of Clarendon.

SCULPTURE AT THE GROVE includes small and monumental pieces in figurative and abstract styles by members of the Royal Academy, the Royal British Society of Sculptors, graduates from the country's best art colleges, and internationally acclaimed artists from Australia, Spain and Holland. The show will be designed so that the public will be able to walk around the grounds and explore the beauty of sculpture within The Grove's gardens and landscape.

The curator is Virginia Grub, founder of Art Contact, a consultancy which sources and commissions art and sculpture for the workplace and the public arena. She explains:

'We have worked very hard to give the public a collection of work they would not see in other sculpture gardens. Our own landscape and gardens are as important as the buildings we live in and sculptures are a wonderful way to make a statement in an outdoor space. There is a wonderful sense of continuity here; in the 18th century, the Earl of Clarendon would have commissioned sculptures and follies from Italian artists for his gardens - and contemporary sculptures are the garden ornaments of today.'

Most of the artists visited The Grove and have chosen works that suit their specific exhibition space within the beautiful gardens. A variety of pieces will be on display, which will appeal to a diverse range of tastes and interests.

Smaller works include *Seed (Limestone and Electrical Light)* by Nicolas Moreton (RBSS/ Brian Mercer Award), and *Hare Running* by Hamish Mackie. Larger works include *Fire in the Taurus (Painted Steel)* by Phillip King (PPRA); *Eye of the Beholder* by Simon Hitchens (RBSS) and *Untitled 2010 (Granite)* by Michael Dan Archer (RSS, RBSS and ISS).

Some of the works, such as Colin Rose's *Cedar Rope Ball (Mixed Media)* which will hang in one of the estate's magnificent Sequoias trees; the pretty galvanised steel figures by Lucy Unwin (Winchester School of Art); or the glass installations by Chris Wood (RCA), need no interpretation, other than to be enjoyed.

Virginia Grub concludes:

"I was aware of The Grove's magnificent location and historic connection with the arts. It's the perfect backdrop for a sculpture exhibition and a wonderful opportunity to bring together some really exciting work from talented, emerging artists and established sculptors."

ALL WORKS IN THE EXHIBITION WILL BE ON SALE

For full descriptions and prices visit www.thegrove.co.uk or www.artcontact.co.uk

ARTISTS

Michael Dan Archer | RSS, RBSS and ISS | **Dorothy Brook** | Central St. Martins | **Peter Brook-Ball** | Central St. Martins | **Dick Budden** | Bournemouth College of Art | **Jo Burchell** | Central St. Martins | **Mat Chivers** | Eco 2009 | Proof Award | Devon ArtsCulture Award | Nottingham Trent University | **Ann Christopher** | RA, RBSS | Bristol West of England College of Art | **Christine Fox** | Winchester School of Art | **Mel Fraser** | Cambridge Open Studios | **Simon Hitchens** | RBSS | Bristol Polytechnic | **Greg Johns** | Leading Australian Contemporary Sculptor | **Dan Jones** | **Phillip King** | PPRA | Central St. Martins | **Matthew Lane Sanderson** | Northumbria University | **David Macilwaine** | **Hamish Mackie** | Leading Wildlife Sculptor / Lockbund Sculpture Foundry | **Adrian Moakes** | Public Commission Sculptor | Doncaster College of Art | **Nicolas Moreton** | RBSS | Brian Mercer Award | Nene College School of Art and Design | **Louise Plant** | Brian Mercer Award | **Nick Roberts** | Byam Shaw School of Art | **Colin Rose** | National Design Award | **Teo San Jose** | RA, RBSS | **Rupert Till** | Chelsea School of Art | **Nicola Toms** | **Nicholas Uhlmann** | Leading Australian Sculptor | **Lucy Unwin** | Winchester School of Art | **Ronald Westerhuis** | RAW Stainless | **Julian Wild** | Kingston University | **Chris Wood** | RCA

DATES AND OPENING HOURS

Open to the public: 7th May 2011 – 31st August 2011
10am – 5pm daily

Admission: Free of charge

Catalogue: A fully illustrated catalogue with a map showing the Sculpture Trail through the grounds of The Grove accompanies the exhibition

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ABOUT THE GROVE

The Grove provides a rich and varied setting for the works, in 300 acres of private Hertfordshire parkland, with lakes and woodland, dating back to the 17th century. The 18th century mansion also had formal gardens and a large Walled Garden. The design and restoration of the gardens was overseen by landscape architect Michael Balston, who is also a judge at the Royal Horticultural Society and Chairman of the Chelsea Gardens Panel. The Grove's link to art goes back to the 18th Century when George Stubbs used to walk from his Edgware home to paint the estate's horses. It is now home to an astonishing collection of art and antiques - which complements the hotel's sumptuous, glamorous, 'groovy grand' interiors, and deftly acknowledge the house's history.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Virginia began her career at the Thumb Gallery in Soho working with artists such as Adrian George, Chris Orr and Glyn Boyd Harte but soon realised that what she really wanted to do was to take art to the general public. In 1994, she founded Art Contact, a consultancy which sources and commissions art and sculpture for the workplace and the public arena. Twenty five years on, Art Contact has established itself as one of the leaders in its field, providing a range of services for clients in the corporate, healthcare, financial and leisure sectors.

Following her involvement in the refurbishment of The Grove's sister hotel in Surrey, Virginia was approached by the hotels' owners to discuss the idea of curating a sculpture exhibition at The Grove. '**SCULPTURE AT THE GROVE**' is the result.

- Ends -



**The Grove, Chandler's Cross, Hertfordshire, WD3 4T | Tel 01923 807807 or visit www.thegrove.co.uk
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PUBLICITY

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