

Press Release
8th August 2018

Sculpture in the Vineyard takes off with a Fresh New Format

Sculpture in the Vineyard, a two-week festival of art, kicks off on Saturday 8th September in Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath. This event will boast an all-new line up of indoor and outdoor sculptures, brought together by curator Dawn Benson, and is being combined with a fresh format of weekend art courses, talks and performances.

Over 200 pieces by 50 different artists, in a wide variety of materials and styles, will be on display and for sale. In the line-up are several artists who have been in the lime-light recently such as RHS award-winning Simon Probyn with his stylised metallic pieces, and Martin Hayward Harris whose fluid work captures iconic subjects from nature, and has received numerous awards for his work. His Blue Whale model is still on display in The Natural History Museum. The exhibition also welcomes influential movers and shakers such as Johannes von Stumm whose startlingly original sculpture has attracted public and critical acclaim in a decade of successful exhibitions, both in the UK and abroad.

After one of the best summers in years, and just as the grapes are beginning to ripen, Bothy Vineyard will be throwing its gates open to art collectors and the public alike. Wine and food will naturally feature prominently on the exhibition programme, with wine tastings, high teas, BBQs at the weekend and even a pop-up al fresco Sunday lunch. For the first time companies are able to book marquee spaces during the week for their events held among the vines and art.

Sian Liwicki, owner of Bothy Vineyard, said, "This year, Bothy Vineyard is marking its fortieth year and this exhibition is one of the ways we are celebrating. We are thrilled to welcome so much artistic talent onto our 7 acre grounds and winery. Art, wine and nature – it is a heady, joyous combination. We hope the exhibition gives the residents of Oxfordshire as much pleasure as it will be giving us in hosting it."

The event profits from the exhibition will be donated to charity Wild Oxfordshire, a local wildlife charity, and The Heartstone Fund, which encourages young people discover art.

Sculpture in the Vineyard will run from Saturday 8th to Sunday 23rd September. Gates will open from 10 am to 6 pm, and the cost of entry, which includes a programme, is £2.50 (children free). Events are organised over the weekends, as a wide range of workshops which can be booked over the website, including stone carving, glass fusing, blacksmithing, dynamic drawing, collage and printing as well as a sensory walk from local 'wildman' Stuart Mabbutt and a demonstration and talk by sculptor, Carol Orwin. An Art Trail for children, a self-guided tour of the vineyard, food and other refreshments are available throughout. Free parking.

Sculpture in the Vineyard is grateful to its sponsors, Slade Legal (Silver Sponsor), Carter Jonas, Susan Dunstall and AD Maclean, and all our supporters.

For more information visit sculptureinthevineyard.uk or follow us on www.facebook.com/sculptureinvineyard where you can view videos of previous events and follow the progress of the exhibition. Also on Instagram - SITV2018.

..... End.....

Notes for editors

Photos on request. Or download from <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3zs03kznucy52h1/AAAlBpL1909CGZSF6zn9r1xAa?dl=0>

1. Contact information

Sian Liwicki (Exhibition host and contact for corporate bookings)
Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath, Abingdon OX13 6QW. www.bothyvineyard.co.uk
telephone: 01865 390067
email: sculpture@bothyvineyard.co.uk

And from the Heartstone Fund (exhibition organization):

Jeanette Howse, telephone: 07771 967633
email: jeanette.howse@btinternet.com
Meriel Lewis telephone: 07890 032725
email: info@heartstone-fund.uk
www.heartstone-fund.uk

2. Bothy Vineyard – the host venue

Bothy Vineyard is Oxfordshire's oldest vineyard-winery. The philosophy at Bothy Vineyard is to produce the highest quality wines from grapes cultivated in an environmentally-friendly way as possible. Bothy continues an ancient tradition of wine making in the Vale of the White Horse, Oxfordshire. The local micro-climate, warm sandy soils, long ripening season and mature vines produce wines of consistent depth and quality which have won many awards. Wines from Bothy will be on sale at the exhibition, and groups of over 12 people may also book tours during the week.

For more information

visit: <http://www.bothyvineyard.co.uk> or www.facebook.com/bothyvineyard

3. The 2018 Good Causes

Two charities have been invited to be involved in Sculpture in the Vineyard which will help them to raise funds and gain wider awareness of their projects.

The Heartstone Fund www.heartstone-fund.uk

This fund has been set up in memory of Lendon Scantlebury, who curated the previous shows at Bothy Vineyard and many other shows in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, including the largest show at Ardington, where he took over the whole of the 50 acre site for a stunning exhibition in 2014. Lendon's ambition was to encourage young people to

make the transition to professional artist, through mentoring, teaching and helping to fund them, which he did himself throughout these previous exhibitions. The Heartstone Fund aims to continue and develop his work.

Lendon had already taken five artists, Jenny, Kira, Molly, Ollie and Tom, on a journey from their first expressions of talent to becoming confident artists with bright futures. Lendon's partner in life and art, Dawn Benson, has now taken on the responsibility to fund future developments through continuing the exhibitions that she and Lendon started.

Wild Oxfordshire www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Wild Oxfordshire is a local charity which provides a coordinated and strategic approach to conservation in Oxfordshire. Through providing support and encouraging environmental organizations and volunteers to work together, Wild Oxfordshire will be the catalyst for solutions that benefit wildlife within our rich and vibrant county. Wild Oxfordshire works in partnership with over 60 organizations.

Current projects include:

- Saving our bees and other pollinators under threat
- Delivering natural solutions for effective flood management
- Giving nature a voice in County strategy and planning.

Wild Oxfordshire also published the State of Nature in Oxfordshire 2017 report which is the most comprehensive review of Oxfordshire's Wildlife and vital baseline data including input from over 60 species experts and over 40 environmental organisations reflecting the work drawn from thousands of data sets and volunteer hours.