

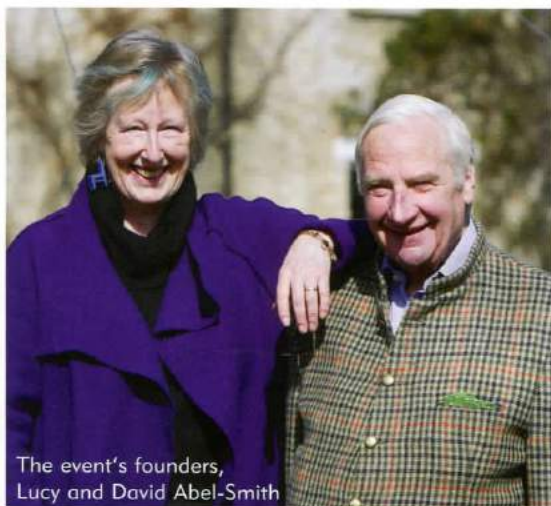


Tree for Eternity by Lucy Strachan

Sunday 14 June – Sunday 5 July

'FRESH AIR 2015' AT QUENINGTON OLD RECTORY, NEAR CIRENCESTER

The biennial exhibition FRESH AIR has become one of the country's leading outdoor contemporary sculpture events, this year showing work by 95 artists...



The event's founders,
Lucy and David Abel-Smith

FRESH AIR 2015 is the 12th biennial Quenington Sculpture Exhibition. It promises an exciting line-up of new work in media ranging from stone, ceramic and glass to textiles, sound and video. 99 artists are featured, of whom 30 are new to the event this year.

The exhibition is the brainchild of art collectors Lucy and David Abel-Smith, with the sculptures displayed throughout the five acres which surround their Grade II listed home, Quenington Old Rectory. With the River Coln running through the garden, the setting is both beautiful and quintessentially Cotswolds.

The outdoor space becomes a living gallery and visitors can wander through the different vistas, finding something new around every corner. Monumental pieces sit alongside smaller works and this is reflected in the price range of £50 to £50,000.

Highlights of the exhibition include a dramatic architectural work by Danish sculptor Hilde A Danielson entitled *Upside down again*, made using 60 turning door frames; Michael Fairfax's wind harps, strung into the branches of a tree; Alison Crowther's carved wooden sculpture made from an Old Rectory Acacia tree which was felled by high winds last winter; and Andrew Trotman's highly sculptural outdoor furniture.

Look out for two bronzes, *Monumental Gannet Head* by Terence Coventry and *Midnight Movie Heads* by Jon Buck, both of which were last seen at the *Crucible 2* exhibition at Gloucester ▶



Strange Flower by Colin Reid



Midnight Movie Heads by Jon Buck



Quenington Old Rectory



Mule Head by Dorcas Casey



Shaggy Dog Stories by Tom Hackett

Cathedral last autumn. And Dorcas Casey translates the mysterious power of dreams into a tangible object in *Mule Head*, made of jesmonite, fabric, iron powder and wood.

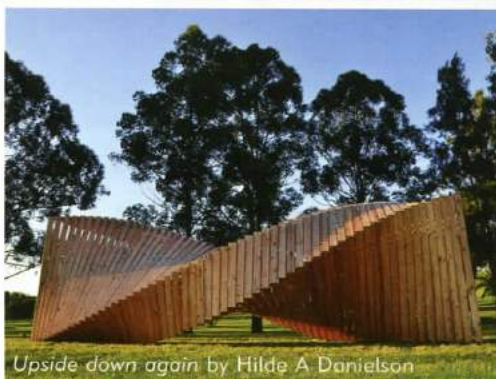
Ceramic works in the exhibition include a series of archaeological pieces by Jane King, whose sculpture has been chosen for inclusion in the 59th *Premio Faenza* from June 2015, an international competition for contemporary ceramic art in Italy. Jitka Palmer is exhibiting a collection of ceramic vessels placed in and around trees and walls; and other featured ceramic artists include Jim Brown, Christie Brown, Dave Cooke, Natalia Dias and Guy Stevens.

The use of glass as a medium is well represented with works by such luminaries as Colin Reid, Sam Herman, Matt Durran, Fiaz Elson, Colin Hawkins of Loco Glass, Richard Jackson Fawkes, Max Jacquard, Faith Mercer, Jacque Pavlosky and Angela Thwaites.

Colour plays a very important part in any garden and many of the works reflect this. For example, Tom Hackett's playful *Shaggy Dog Stories* is an installation of wheelbarrows containing yellow silicone rubber dog forms; Taz Lovejoy's bright sculptural candles hang from trees; and Caroline Parrott's *Hydrangea Rabbit* is in colourful anodised aluminium.



Open Hand by Sophie Ryder



Upside down again by Hilde A Danielson




Family 3 by Carole Peace

Inspired by the tranquil setting, the show includes two site specific installations: the little boathouse by the wooden bridge is home to a unique video/dance/textile installation with recordings of seasonal sounds taken from the garden by Julia van Doorne; and an abstract projection installation with digital music has been created by Polish new media artists Radek Rudnicki and Jakub Hader.

FRESH AIR is again running an impressive education programme for local schools, including workshops for disabled and special needs pupils. For many children from primary and secondary schools in the region, their visit gives them a unique opportunity to enjoy such a large range of art in a rural setting.

Throughout the exhibition, the swimming pool house in the grounds of Quenington Old Rectory is home to a pop-up gallery which showcases contemporary and applied art, jewellery, textiles and smaller scale sculpture. This year's theme is all things botanical, inspired by pioneering female plant collectors, gardeners and botanists.

FRESH AIR is open from 10am–5pm every day including weekends. Admission is £4 per adult, with free entry for children. Catalogues are £5 and light lunches and snacks are available. 

Fresh Air 2015 at Quenington Old Rectory,
near Cirencester:
01285 750379 | GL7 5BN | freshairsculpture.com