

SCULPTURE IN THE VALLEY: REFLECTIONS ON LANDSCAPE



Waveney & Blyth Arts' sculpture event for 2020

18th July to 2nd August 2020

At Potton Hall, Blythburgh Road, Westleton IP17 3EF

2020 will be a significant year for Waveney & Blyth Arts – we'll be hosting the seventh outdoor sculpture event, this year entitled **Sculpture in the Valley 2020**, and celebrating 10 years of the organisation.

Every 3 years, our annual sculpture trail moves around the W&BA patch to reach new audiences and explore different landscapes. In 2020, our flagship event's newest incarnation will take place at Potton Hall, located close to Dunwich Forest in the Blyth valley area of Suffolk, and we hope that many 3-D artists will want to take part in this fantastic initiative. We are also delighted to welcome our new curator, David Baldry (read about him below), a well-known artist and curator in the Suffolk art scene.

Sculpture in the Valley 2020 is the flagship event of Waveney & Blyth Arts' annual *Celebrate* programme, which uses the arts to connect people to the unique features of the Waveney and Blyth river valleys, coastal areas and market towns. Our multi-arts programme offers a lens to view the environment through and to discover the fascination and stories of those connected to the micro-region.

As part of Creative Odyssey Projects Sarah Cannell will be organising a separate Raveningham Sculpture Trail. In order to avoid any confusion, we have retitled the on-going W&BA event as **Sculpture in the Valley 2020**.

Sculpture in the Valley 2020 Theme

For the event in 2020, we're setting the brief 'Reflections on Landscape' and will be looking for work that responds to that brief. We're expecting artists to consider ideas about scale (micro to macro), perspectives and interaction between wild and cultivated aspects of the landscape. We are living in the context of climate crisis and this, along with broader perspectives on the landscapes we live in and our relationships with it could be compelling ideas to explore. The work will be selected and curated by this year's curator David Baldry.

The theme 'Reflections on Landscape' has been inspired by the 10 years of art and landscape work Waveney & Blyth Arts has delivered. Artists may submit proposals for site-specific works, newly created pieces and existing work suitable for this location.

Leading up to this year's event, the event has been supported by a sub-committee of practising artists – Mike Challis, Meryem Siemmond and Stephen Worrall –to whom we are very grateful.

About the Curator

David Baldry is an award-winning artist with an international reputation. Trained originally as a sculptor, David makes work in a range of media and, for many years until recently, he was Head of Fine Art at the University of Suffolk.

David has worked for the Arts Council, the QAA and the Czech Government as well as being External Examiner for the University of Gloucester. In 2017, he became the first Director of the Aldeburgh Arts Academy. He is currently working with the Universities of Duhok and Erbil in Iraq to establish dialogue and exchanges with Kurdish artists as well as developing a new curriculum for fine art degrees within these institutions. David has been Commissioning Agent for a number of major public art installations and has curated several ambitious exhibitions and leading residency programmes: <http://davidbaldry.uk/>

About this year's event, David said: *"When invited to curate this year's **Sculpture in the Valley 2020**, I was immediately struck by the title **Reflections on Landscape**. This year we are blessed with a new and extraordinary site close to the East Suffolk coast with its woodland, heath, marsh and of course sky. Art is at its best when pointing to something we don't always acknowledge or take for granted. This year artists will have every opportunity to think about, engage with and make sculpture in a very special location which embraces both garden and the wild. I hope we can use this to showcase all aspects of contemporary sculpture. The big, the small, the beautiful, the forever, the experimental and the ephemeral. Above all I hope that this exhibition will excite, delight and challenge its audience."*

About Potton Hall

Potton Hall is just 2 miles from the Suffolk coast. Potton Hall is both the family home of John and Priscilla Westgarth and a spa retreat centre set within beautiful grounds and extensive facilities <https://www.pottonhallspa.co.uk>. In addition, Potton Hall has a professional recording studio with residential facilities on-site. However, these activities will be put 'on hold' for the duration of this event. There is a delightful Cafe in a yurt, with a fully licenced bar serving light lunches and refreshments. Plus, there is a children's tree house climbing frame for younger guests.

The areas of the site which will be used for the **Sculpture in the Valley 2020** event includes a wild-flower meadow, vegetable/potager gardens, lawns with formal planted gardens with climbing plant archways, views across to Dunwich heath and woodland, a cascading waterfall feature and sheep grazing fields. Access to mains power may be organised for work installed close to the site's outbuildings. The allocation of the spaces will be decided by the Curator, Project Coordinator and Site Manager with the artist – see below "How to Apply".

Event timeline

- Artist's pre-application site visit (recommended): Saturday 25th January, 10:30am to 12:30pm
- **Application deadline: Friday 7th February**
- Application decision by: Friday 28th February
- Selected artist's site visit (recommended): Saturday 14th March, 10:30am to 12:30pm
- Deadline for statements, photographs and information for press and event materials: Friday 29th May
- On-site installation: Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th July – to be arranged between Artist and Project Coordinator
- Private View: Friday 17th July, 6pm to 9pm, opening speech at 6:30pm
- **Sculpture in the Valley 2020: Saturday 18th July to Sunday 2nd August, 10am to 5pm daily**
- Take down: Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th August – to be arranged between Artist and Project Coordinator

Commission, Sales & Expenses

Artists taking part in the **Sculpture in the Valley 2020** event can sell their sculptural art work but the work must stay in-situ for the duration of the event. There will be a box office & shop on-site to handle payments. Artists will receive 75% commission for sales – increased from previous years – with the remaining commission of 25% split between the organisers (W&BA) and venue (Potton Hall).

As well as selling the sculptures, artists will be invited to display prints, cards and smaller items for sale in the on-site shop. Again, the commission will be split 75% to the artist.

We can offer reimbursement of travel costs based on 25p per mile (up to a maximum of £50 per person). They will need to return a completed claim form by 10th August and will be paid by BACS.

Each artist taking part will be eligible for the Curator's Choice prize of £250 or the Visitor's Choice prize of £250 for 1st prize, £200 for 2nd prize or £100 for 3rd prize.

Any sales or awards made during the event will be paid by BACS by W&BA between 10th and 31st August 2020.

Application Guidelines & How To Apply

If you are selected as an artist, you will be required to commit to at least one day invigilation during the 16 days of the event.

Non-attendance of the optional pre-application site visit on 25th January will not affect the decision making for application, but it will be useful for you to understand how you will respond to the site.

Artists will be expected to have current Public Liability Insurance of up to £5m cover for the duration of the installation, event and take down. A copy of the insurance document will be requested if you are selected as a participating artist.

Contacts

Project Coordinator: Genevieve Rudd, email info@waveneyandblytharts.com, phone: 07749779723

Site Manager: Simon Raven, simon@thefen.org

To make an application, please complete the form on the Waveney & Blyth Arts website: www.waveneyandblytharts.com > Events > Sculpture in the Valley 2020

You will be asked to provide the following:

- Up to 3 **images** of your work (max. 500KB size)
- Up to 500 words **proposal** which outlines how you will respond to the brief 'Reflections on Landscape', including the medium you will work in and the scale of the work, if known at an early stage
- An up-to-date **CV** to include an artist's statement and details of your previous relevant experience
- If you are not already a W&BA member for 2020, in order to submit an application you will first need to pay a non-returnable **application fee** of £15, paid online through our secure system via the JOIN US button. This is because your application fee will automatically give you one year's full membership to W&BA.
Important: when purchasing, please type SCULPTURE in the coupon box on the second page and click APPLY COUPON. This is so we can match the applications to the correct members.
Member benefits: <https://waveneyandblytharts.com/product/yearly-membership/>

Accessibility

There is parking on site for 300 cars, plus there will be a small designated parking area for disabled visitors with a ramp down to the garden area. The venue has a mix of loose pea gravel surfaces, paving slab patios and mowed grass. In preparation for the event, we endeavour to make adaptations to the venue for increased accessibility to our visitors. This will include wheelchair accessible toilet facilities and baby-changing facilities.