**PRESS RELEASE: Monday 21st August 2023**

**World renowned nature experts and artists join Sculpture by the Lakes in month-long exhibition celebrating trees**

**A UNIQUE sculpture park and art venue launches a special exhibition dedicated to trees with exclusive artwork, workshops, and talks from world famous nature specialists this autumn.**

Dorset-based Sculpture by the Lakes hosts ‘ARBOR: A Month of Trees’ from 27th September, featuring a specially curated selection of sculptures and artwork inspired by crucial woodland species.

The brimming event schedule includes expert talks from former BBC presenter and Dorset Wildlife Trust President, Dr George McGavin, and ex-Head of Arboretum at Kew Gardens and globally recognised tree expert, Tony Kirkham MBE. A series of exclusive live art demonstrations and workshops will be hosted by recognised names including Channel 5 Watercolour Series expert judge and Sky Arts Landscape Artist of The Year semi-finalist, Lisa Takahashi.

Garden Director at Sculpture by the Lakes, Monique Gudgeon said: “Trees are integral to Sculpture by the Lakes, inspiring incredible pieces of art while playing a critical role as habitat creators and protectors of the environment. Our very existence relies on trees as they bring so many benefits to everyone, from clean air to shelter from the elements.

“The purpose of ARBOR is to raise awareness of the importance of trees and their conservation, bringing their many qualities to life through a diverse range of engaging and interactive activities. The exhibition involves our entire park, from the gallery to our landscaped gardens, and aligns with our continual celebration of the natural world and the creativity it fosters.”

As part of the event’s expert talk series, Dr McGavin explores ‘The Life in our Trees’, focusing on the relationship between trees and wildlife, while Mr Kirkham recounts his journey around the globe discovering rare tree species. Best-selling author, Jonathan Drori presents his latest instalment ‘Around the World in 80 Trees’.

Visitors can also learn a variety of intricate nature crafts at the event, including stone carving, charcoal burning, and jewellery making using tree seeds and leaves. Artists showcasing their talents include plein air painter, Stephen Bithell; wood engraving specialist, Robin Mackenzie; and traditional pencil artist and illustrator, Katy Harrald.

Simon Gudgeon, Sculptor and Owner of Sculpture by the Lakes added: “Sculpture by the Lakes was born out of my perpetual fascination with wildlife and the natural world, so lends itself perfectly to this important exhibition.

“It’s a pleasure to host so many talented individuals at our event who share this passion, with each committed to preserving and enhancing the environment. We’re also proud to be supported by charities including The Tree Council and Dorset Wildlife Trust. Together, we can help grow our nation’s network of nature enthusiasts and create a better world for future generations.”

With more exclusive events due to be announced in the coming weeks, the full schedule for ARBOR, which runs from 27th September – 28th October, can be found here: <https://www.sculpturebythelakes.co.uk/events/>.

Tickets to access the full ARBOR exhibition across the entire sculpture park can be purchased via the Sculpture by the Lakes event page as a general all day entry pass (10am – 5pm, £14.50) or afternoon pass (from 2pm – 5pm, £12.50). Various demonstrations are also free of charge, with others available to purchase separately via the link above.

Ticket purchase is not required for sole entry to The Makers Yard at Sculpture by the Lakes, which will also host elements of the ARBOR exhibition.\*

Sculpture by the Lakes is in the Dorset village of Pallington, near Dorchester. For more information about Sculpture by the Lakes, visit <https://www.sculpturebythelakes.co.uk/>.

**-Ends-**

**Notes to Editors**

\*The Makers Yard includes a gallery featuring an eclectic selection of artwork from international artists, and a café offering seasonal dishes using produce sourced directly on site. There is also a shop featuring unique, hand-crafted products and a pantry, offering an array of food and drinks from local artisan and independent producers from across Dorset.

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