



## Set in stone

Asthall Manor is setting the scene for a unique sculpture exhibition that will explore the artistry that can be found in the medium of stone





If you are looking for inspiration for a garden sculpture, head for Asthall Manor, near Burford, where 40 sculptors from all over the world will be showing their works.

They will be taking part in On Form 18, the ninth biennial exhibition of sculpture in stone, set in the manor's beautiful, free flowing gardens and house.

World renowned and upcoming sculptors from the UK, Italy, Greece, Canada, the Netherlands and the US have been selected to exhibit their work, bringing together some of the most respected and exciting artists working in stone today.

Closer to home, two Oxfordshire artists Alex Wenham and Alison Mumby will be taking part.

Alex Wenham has won numerous awards for his stone carving and is based in Oxford.

Alison Mumby previously worked in the On Form office for eight years and became inspired to try stone carving, which has led to a whole new career.

Themes around nature, the flux of time, displacement and organic form dominate.

Over the years, On Form has gained a reputation for thoughtful curating and placement that is sensitive to the relationship between sculpture and the landscape. A vital element is to provide visitors with an opportunity to see, touch and buy work that promises to be as conceptual, thought provoking, skilled and impressive as that which can be seen in the best galleries and institutions around the world.

It is the only exhibition in the UK to focus on the medium of stone: "Which gives a peculiar sense of grounding, perhaps because of the time embedded within it," says exhibition founder and owner of Asthall Manor, Rosie Pearson. "The stillness of the sculpture provides a focus against which the exuberant growth of the plants can be enjoyed."

This year furniture dealers and designers Lorfords will be collaborating with On Form in the ballroom, the office and the gallery to create an intimate setting of furniture and textiles for sculpture. The eclectic interior scenes will provide visitors with visual inspiration for living with sculpture in stone at home and will highlight its positive influence in everyday life.

Chef Fiona Cullinane will return to The Potting Shed Cafe with summer dishes inspired by ingredients from the walled vegetable garden of Asthall Manor. The Mad Hatter Book Shop from Burford will also be running a pop-up shop with a range of books focusing on the themes of the



exhibition. Literature talks and signings will be held at the book shop throughout the exhibition, as well as William Sieghart's Poetry Pharmacy and some story-telling events for children.

Events for all ages will include birdsong walks at dusk, garden talks and tours, painting and stone carving workshops, poetry workshops and performances from the brilliant Scary Little Girls, including their popular Mitford walks, as well as a literary salon based on the works of radical women.

On Form 18 runs from June 10 to July 8, Wednesdays to Sundays, 11am to 6pm. Admission (includes full colour catalogue): £10; 12 to 18 and students £5; under-12s and Asthall residents free. There will also be a £15 season pass for multiple entries.

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