

Extracts from Catalogue Essay

'Naturally Sculpture' at Burghley House Contemporary Sculpture garden

By Michael Shaw, Curator

Another Surprise for Fabricius Luscinus is by no means a shy sculpture: a conjuror's reveal through its 'Jack in the Box' explosion. Jim Unsworth's impetus was less the circus and more an exploration of the pathway between wild and tame, between the caged and free. The incongruous mix of the dusky elephant and the man-made assemblage strikes a pose that prompts questions of ecology and geography. This is a painted sculpture, in lineage with Classical sculptures- a connection underlined by the sculpture's Romanesque title and inferences of Hannibal and the Alps. The dusty appearance of the elephant is due to the accumulation of oxides, algae and pollution on its surfaces over the last twenty years, whereas the man-made elements have an appealingly painterly shabby-chic. Overall this is a muscular, surprising and humorous sculpture.

In Jim Unsworth's *Three Go Out in Yellow*, the ordered rationale of industrially extruded metal becomes organic and with a touch of casualness of the natural world. These lofty characters are either conversing or on walkabout, their stark linear geometry stands proud of the green leafed patchwork background. Their thrusting verticality is held in check by several horizontal bands and this gives rise to associations with the management of garden and landscape through trellis or arches. Nonetheless, the overriding sensation is of independence, both in the intent of the forms and the rapeseed yellow coating. The integration of form and colour is so complete that they almost appear to have been drawn in the landscape with a giant yellow pencil.

Michael Shaw 2017