

KRIJN DE KONING PRESENTS NEW SCULPTURE



Krijn de Koning, *Green / Blue*, work for Gibberd Garden, Harlow (2020) © Rob Harris

Artist Krijn de Koning has created a site-specific installation entitled *Green / Blue*, work for *Gibberd Garden, Harlow*, on display at The Gibberd Garden in Harlow until 25 October 2020.

De Koning's sculpture is one of the final projects for the region-wide arts commissioning programme, *New Geographies*, which aims to bring contemporary art to unexpected places in the East of England. The Gibberd Garden — owned and designed by leading post-war architect Sir Frederick Gibberd (1908-1984) and widely acknowledged to be one of the most important 20th century gardens in the UK — was personally selected by de Koning as the site for his installation.

At the core of de Koning's artistic practice is the way in which we perceive and interact with the spaces we inhabit. Working within different environments — such as Compton Verney, Edinburgh College of Art, and Folkstone Triennial — de Koning creates geometric structures which are in dialogue with their locations, both highlighting and intervening with our experience of these places.

His sculpture, created in partnership with UH Arts, the University of Hertfordshire's arts and cultural programme, and the Gibberd Garden Trust, has been designed specifically for The Gibberd Garden. It invites the visitor to see and experience the space of the garden through a new architectural structure, and, in turn, the garden forms an integral part of the work.

Says Krijn de Koning: *'The whole installation creates a spatial game of see-through, obstruction and framing that investigates the interaction between the specific iconography of an object (in this case the trees) and the experience of a place, which is of a much wider character. The trees are as central and important as the work that surrounds them, they belong to each other. The situation is in balance, but together they put a lot of particular focus and attention to the place.'*

The artist's interest in architecture is well placed at The Gibberd Garden. Sir Frederick Gibberd — the Master Planner of Harlow New Town, and designer of iconic buildings such as the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and London Central Mosque — divided his own garden into separate 'rooms'. Scattered throughout were eccentric works of art and the paraphernalia left over from Gibberd's various builds.

Characterising the garden as 'rooms' inspired de Koning to design a structure made up of several different compartments. The result, part architecture and part sculpture, encourages the viewer to become an active participant in the work, looking around its walls and stepping through its openings as they navigate the garden space.

Says Mac Quinton, Trustee of the Gibberd Garden Trust: *'Krijn has picked up Gibberd's concept of the garden as a series of rooms in his sculpture, but reinterprets it in his own way. There are walls, but they are interlinked. They are placed in, and relate to, a group of existing trees. As you walk around the sculpture, you notice that the walls have some small openings, which give glimpses of the trees in an intriguing way. Other openings entice you to move through them and, in so doing, obtain a completely new perspective. I think it's a wonderful and respectful homage to the garden's original design.'*

The installation will be at The Gibberd Garden during Summer/Autumn 2020, where possible in line with government guidance and Covid-19 restrictions.

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Notes to Editors:

About Krijn de Koning

Krijn de Koning (b. 1963) creates site-specific sculptures and installations for Exhibitions, Museums, Galleries and for Public places. He constructs his work from floors, walls, rooms and corridors, sometimes in vivid colours, sometimes in natural colours or just in the colour of the space itself. Many of the works can be used: you can enter them, sit on them or stay in them. His interventions raise questions about how architecture conditions us and how certain constructions generate specific meaning. De Koning transforms an existing situation, sometimes literally breaks it down, in order to reveal a different reality.

Large projects have been accomplished for the Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam (NL), 2010, the Musee de Beaux Arts de Nantes (FR) 2011 and the Edinburgh Art Festival, 2013. Large public works have been created in the city of Utrecht (NL) 2013, Hasselt (B) 2014 and Rennes (FR) 2018.

<http://www.krijndekoning.nl/>

About The Gibberd Garden

The Gibberd Garden is an inspirational and fascinating Grade II listed garden. Created between 1957 and 1984 by Sir Frederick Gibberd, Master Planner of Harlow New Town and leading post-war architect, it is acknowledged to be one of the most important 20th century gardens in the country.

The garden occupies 9 acres of a 14 acre site on the side of a small valley, sloping down to the Pincey Brook. It is full of sculptures and what Sir Frederick called 'decorative objects', including ceramic pots and items of architectural salvage. It has lawns, pools, streams and glades, a dramatic mature lime avenue, a brookside walk, a wild garden, an arboretum and a moated castle with a drawbridge.

In making his garden Sir Frederick fulfilled his ambition to create a work of art. It is loved and admired by garden designers, professional gardeners and the many visitors who are captivated by its unique atmosphere.

The Gibberd Garden is open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 2 to 5pm (last entry at 4pm) until the 25th October 2020. Entry prices are as follows:

Full price ticket: £5.00

Concession: (over 60 or Students) £4.00

Children 5 to 16yrs: £1.00 (under 5 free)

For further information and for the latest updates, please visit their website:

<https://www.thegibberdgarden.co.uk/visitor-information-2020/>

About UH Arts, University of Hertfordshire

UH Arts offers a vibrant arts and cultural programme for the University of Hertfordshire's campus and local communities, working cross-arts with artists and performers. With a programme of exhibitions, performances, residencies and engagement projects, UH Arts delivers excellent, innovative arts and culture with associated research; offering space for artists and performers to experiment, and audiences to engage and co-produce. Working in collaboration with St Albans Museum + Gallery, and other key partners, UH Arts presents off-campus exhibitions and events, displaying works from around the world in new contexts. For more information, visit:

www.uharts.co.uk

About New Geographies

New Geographies is a three-year project, funded by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, to create a new map of the East of England based on personal thoughts, reflections and stories of unexplored or overlooked places, rather than on historic or economical centres. The first phase of the project invited members of the public to nominate locations for the map in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, over a three-month period in the Summer of 2017. This resulted in over 270 nominations. Via an international open call, artists were then invited to submit proposals for artworks inspired by the nominated locations. The artists selected are: Maria Anastassiou, David Blandy, Marcus Coates, Cooking Sections, Ian

Giles, Krijn de Koning, Susan Pui San Lok, Heather and Ivan Morison, Stuart Whipps and Laura Wilson. Each artist is working closely on the realisation of their work with one of the New Geographies partner institutions. The New Geographies partner institutions are Art Exchange, University of Essex Colchester; East Gallery NUA, Norwich University of the Arts; Firstsite, Colchester; Focal Point Gallery, Southend; Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge; Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery; original projects; Great Yarmouth; UH Arts, University of Hertfordshire; and Wysing Arts Centre, Cambridgeshire.

<https://newgeographies.uk/>



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