



PRESS RELEASE

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***Eurydice Prevails*: Lakeside Arts installs new public artwork by internationally renowned artist Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva**

Lakeside Arts is to install a new public artwork by internationally renowned contemporary visual artist Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva. *Eurydice Prevails* will be permanently sited in the beautiful parkland surrounding Lakeside Arts, the University of Nottingham's public arts programme and centre.

Eurydice Prevails is one of a series of inverted tree works that Elpida has made over the last ten years. It explores her continuing interest in that which lies beneath the surface and the hidden. In her work *Ambush* created for the New Forest (2000) she dug a tunnel with glass ceilings for audiences to experience the forest from beneath the ground. *Fragility* (Fabrica, Brighton, 2015) addressed the subject of near-death experience and *Making Beauty*, a solo exhibition at Lakeside Arts in 2016, was her response to research into regenerative medicine and the gut carried out at the University.

To create her new work, Elpida used two dead Elm trees in inverted form, their roots reaching to the sky. The two Elms were sustainably sourced from University Park campus and a Gloucestershire estate, having been felled due to poor health.

Elpida worked with University students, staff and members of the public to make the work using the ancient Japanese process of *Yakisugi*, a method of wood preservation achieved through the charring of the surface. The trees were then overlaid with decorative metallic motifs that trace the tunnel-like galleries created by Elm bark beetles, the carriers of Dutch Elm disease that is estimated to have killed and affected 25 million Elm trees since the 1960s.

In *Eurydice Prevails*, Elpida has imagined a rewriting of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. In her version of events the heroine, unlike in the ancient Greek legend, successfully escapes Hades despite Orpheus' backward glance.

Elpida said: "It's a real pleasure to contribute a public work to Lakeside Arts, whose support for artists is so strong. Staff and students have been wonderful in supporting the making of these new works. I'm very grateful for the opportunity and I hope the works give as much delight to people as I have had in making them".

The project has been supported by Sir Harry Djanogly, a longstanding friend and philanthropist to the University and Lakeside Arts, and is dedicated to the memory of Lady Carol Djanogly.

Shona Powell, Director of Lakeside Arts, said: "We have loved working with Elpida as she has created this stunning addition to our public arts offer. It was important to Elpida to be able to engage students, staff, members of the public and our alumni community in its development, and I know everyone has enjoyed being part of the process. Now we hope that many more people can enjoy the result."

Lakeside Arts will celebrate its installation with invited guests on Wednesday 22 May.

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Notes to editors

Lakeside Arts

Based on University Park Campus, next to Highfields Park, **Lakeside Arts** is the University of Nottingham's public arts programme, attracting over 200,000 visitors every year. Their multi-art form venues include the Djanogly Theatre, Gallery, and Recital Hall, the University of Nottingham Museum, the Weston and Wallner Galleries, artist studios, two cafés, and a shop filled with unique and beautiful gifts.

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva is a site-specific installation artist working across the varied media of sculpture, installation, video and sound, photography and architectural interventions. Her materials range from the unusual to the ordinary and the ephemeral to the precious; they include organic materials, foodstuffs and precious metals. Central to her practice is a response to the particularities of place; its history, locale, environment and communities.

Recent exhibitions include: *The Kilmardinny Tree*, Kilmardinny House, Glasgow (2018); *Internal Beauty*, Grant Museum, London (2018); *An Intimate Gaze*, Danielle Arnaud Gallery, London (2017); *Making Beauty*, Djanogly Gallery, Nottingham (2016); *Haruspex*, Pavilion of the Holy See, 56th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice (2015); *Fragility*, Fabrica, Brighton (2015) and *Silentio Pathologia*, Pavilion of the Republic of Macedonia, 55th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice (2013).

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