

Artist displays pig fat to explore concept of dying

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AN ARTIST is hoping to shed light on the taboo subject of death by displaying the fat that encases pigs' entrails.

Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva's eye opening artwork is currently on display at Fabrica in Duke Street, Brighton.

The 43-year-old, who was born in Macedonia, said she hoped the piece "raises questions" but admitted for some it is "very challenging".

She said: "The work is about death and dying and I wanted to elevate that to a different level."

"It's very challenging and it raises questions. The human itself is very fragile."

Entitled *Fragility*, the work uses caul fat, a membrane that surrounds a pig's internal organs.

It is a by-product of the pork industry and 98 per cent of it is normally discarded.

Ms Hadzi-Vasileva, who now lives in Hove, added: "I

factfile

FRAGILITY was installed at the end of June and opened to the public on July 5.

It closes this Sunday, August 23.

The work is part of a series of three exhibitions on a theme exploring end of life issues, called *Into That Good Night*.

The first one was *A Cold Hand On A Cold Day* by Jordan Esseman, which ran from October 5 to November 24, 2013.

The final exhibition called *Door* by Steven Eastwood, will be displayed in 2017.

deal with this subject matter quite a lot in my work so it's something I am very interested in.

"We shy away from talking about dying and it's taboo for certain people so I think it's a way of exposing something to the viewers and

looking at death from a different angle.

"It depends how you approach it. Hopefully it will be very uplifting."

Lawrence Hill, from Fabrica, said the exhibition had been received "very positively".

He said: "Many people, on discovering what the material is, are torn between their initial reaction of its beauty and their response when they understand it's made of caul fat."

Fragility is one of three works around the topic of dy-

ing and death being exhibited at *Fragility*.

Following *Fragility*, there are a selection of smaller exhibitions up until September 21, after which the venue closes until April next year.

For more details visit fabrica.org.uk.



Ross Hammond, a co-ordinator at Fabrica

Picture: Terry Applin