

Gold leaf tree unveiled in Handcross Nymans gardens



Internationally regarded Brighton based artist Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva, unveils Rapture at the National Trust's Nymans. Inspired by the landscape of this world-renowned garden and its romantic ruins - picture submitted

Published: 12:22 Tuesday 12 January 2016



An internationally regarded Sussex artist unveiled a new sculpture at Nymans gardens in Handcross on Monday (January 11).

'Rapture' by Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva is shaped from a six metre sweet chestnut tree felled in the great storm of 1987 from the National Trust woodland.

The towering artwork is gilded with 23.5 gold leaf and took four months to complete before it was lifted into place with heavy machinery.

Elpida said: "I'm grateful for the opportunity Nymans have provided to realise this work which acts as a striking beacon for nature."

In her extensive work in video, sound and sculpture, Elpida does not use traditional sculptural materials, but is inspired by items with no inherent value, turning everyday objects into things of beauty.

In 'Rapture' she explores the fragility of nature, the effect of time passing and how the past and present can combine to regenerate and evolve.

The exhibition runs until February 28, 10am to 4pm. Normal admission charge only. Call 01444 40525 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans for details.