

## This is the sculpture that will replace the Giant's Chair in the Forest of Dean

Artist commissioned to make work of art to sit in place of giant's chair

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COMMENTS

By [Janet Hughes](#) Senior Digital Reporter

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WHAT'S ON

A monumental pair of hands well over 30ft tall will replace the much-loved giant's chair at the Sculpture Trail in the Forest of Dean.

Trustees have hired internationally acclaimed artist, Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva to make a massive work of art to stand on the hill once occupied by the iconic wooden chair.

And they say Cusp will be one of their most ambitious projects to date when it opens next Spring.



📍 Sculptor Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva in fabrication for her new piece for Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail

There was an outcry when the iconic chair was taken down for health and safety reasons and burned for charcoal two years ago

The 30-year-old chair was the most famous and favourite piece of art on the trail and locals feared a smaller piece would be put in the prominent position on a hill at Beechenhurst.

Visitors to Beechenhurst also complained on social media sites that the sculptures on the trail had become too low key.

The new hilltop sculpture, which will reach 10 metres in height and will feature sculptural wings 10 metres in diameter, will be called Cusp.

Crafted into shape by the artist and local carpenters, it is expected appear tree-like and part of the landscape when it is first completed in Spring 2018.

The artist believes the 'branches' might suggest wings of a bird such as the Forest's buzzards or opening hands in a gesture of welcome, giving and receiving.



**📍 Making charcoal from "Place" the giant chair sculpture ceremony. Decommissioning artist Onya McCausland with original artist Magdalena Jetelova**

The monumental design will be formed by intricate metal trusses and oak felled in the Forest of Dean itself.

Positioned on a hill top with panoramic views of the Cannop Valley, it is hoped the scale of the new work will be a fitting follow-on from the chair, officially known as *Place* by Magdalena Jetelova.

Trustees say *Cusp* will ignite and hone the senses as the sounds of the Forest echo within the sculpture and natural light casts shadows on the surrounding landscape.

“*Cusp* is one of the most ambitious sculptural builds the Sculpture Trust has ever undertaken and we are receiving incredible support from funders and local people to realise its successful completion.

“The sculpture will not only be an awe-inspiring new and iconic landmark to the Forest, but will also host education workshops for schools and community groups for decades to come,” said Cathy Mager, project director, Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust.”



📍 Sculpture Trail sign at Beechenhurst

Artist Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva, who is originally from Macedonia and has worked in Gloucester Cathedral, said she hopes local people will learn to love it as much as they did the chair.

“I am extremely excited to have been commissioned to make a new artwork for the Forest of Dean, one of the most highly regarded places for contemporary site specific sculpture in England,” she said.

“Having now spent time meeting and discussing my proposal with local people, I’m really looking forward to working with them to produce the work.

“It is a huge privilege to follow in the footsteps of Magdalena Jetelova’s *Place*, which was such a signature sculpture for the Forest. I only hope *Cusp* can achieve the same level of regard, both locally and internationally.”



**Stained Glass Window or Cathedral in Sculpture Trail in Forest of Dean**

Regular visitors to Beechenhurst will also see improvements to the trail surface prior to the time of the launch,” said Judith Lack, Recreation Manager, Forestry Commission.

“This exciting new artwork is set to be a striking sculpture, positioned in a prominent location on the trail,” she said.

“The scale of the project is monumental for the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust and will be enjoyed by visitors for many years to come.”



**📍 Sculpture Trail in Forest of Dean**

*Cusp* is part of the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust's three-year programme supported by major new investment from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development through the Forest and Tewkesbury LEADER scheme, Arts Council England, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Watts Group Lydney.

The new education and community programme will be supported by funding from the Summerfield Trust and Ernest Cook Foundation.