

Visitors will have to wait a few months to see the thirty foot tall sculpture being built to replace the famous giant's chair at Beechenhurst after the project hit technical problems.

Old-fashioned boat builders have now been called in to help complete the curved work of art that will replace the much-loved hilltop chair at the Sculpture Trail in the Forest of Dean.

But it means the new sculpture by internationally acclaimed artist, Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva will not be ready until the summer.



Giant's Chair on the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail

Trustees had hoped the massive work of art, christened Cusp, would be in place this Spring.

But their most ambitious project to date has been delayed by the technical difficulties involved in bringing together the intricate metal trusses and oak felled in the Forest of Dean.

Eira Szadurski, project manager at the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trust, said the changes will not alter the way the sculpture looks when it is finished.

"A slightly altered carpentry technique is in use for the structure now so we have had a slight delay to the project," she said.



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

“The project is now estimated to be completed Summer 2018. The Bristol Classic Boat Company, Rolt’s Boat Yard, have been assisting us with this change and are currently working with the artist in the local area.

“We have also been assisted greatly by HMS Engineering, who are based in Hereford, who have been helping with the incredibly technically complicated internal metalwork for the structure and who have been invaluable in helping Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva and the Trust realise ‘Cusp’.”



Positioned on a hill top , 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 they want to produce an “awe-inspiring new and iconic landmark” and Cusp will echo the sounds of the Forest and cast shadows on the surrounding landscape.

It has been described as a whale diving into the sea and a giant pair of hands.



Fragility by Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva (Image: Tom Thistlethwaite, courtesy Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva)

“Cusp is one of the most ambitious sculptural builds the Sculpture Trust has ever undertaken,” said a spokesman last year when they introduced Macedonian artist Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva who is known for her large-scale, but delicate installations made animal innards.

There was an outcry when the iconic 30-year-old chair which stood on a prominent position on a hill at Beechenhurst was taken down for health and safety reasons and burned for charcoal three years ago.

Many feared a low key piece but the artist, known for massive installations made from animal innards, designed a pair of huge wings which will be at least 30ft high and wide enough for people to step inside.