



KILVER COURT DESIGNER VILLAGE

DESIGNER SHOPPING | RESTAURANTS | GARDENS & NURSERY

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### IN THE AIR – A SOUND INSTALLATION BY DAVID WARD FOR KILVER COURT GARDENS

**In the Air** – an immersive sound installation by acclaimed artist, David Ward, has been commissioned by Somerset Art Works for the gardens at Kilver Court Designer Village in Shepton Mallet. The installation forms part of A Landscape of Objects Project for the 2017 Somerset Art Weeks Festival.



Commenting, artist David Ward said, “I have made the sound installation **In the Air** specifically for the unique context of Kilver Court where the great Charlton Viaduct runs dramatically through the stunning gardens. A range of sound recordings will be replayed within six of the arches, so that these dynamic spaces act as ‘sound rooms’.”

The recordings will include speaking and singing voices and ambient, atmospheric sounds as diverse as weather conditions and steam engines, all relating to the cultural and horticultural history of this remarkable site. Different readers will record the names of hundreds of plants

growing at Kilver Court. Other voices will perform readings that draw on more universal associations of the garden as a representation of an ideal paradise or arcadia: an oasis or haven from the stresses of the world.”

Central to these recordings is a song, with words, written by David Ward, set to a new composition by renowned composer Orlando Gough. This collaborative piece, commissioned as part of the project, will be recorded 'a capella' (unaccompanied), sung by a solo voice.

The exhibition will run from Saturday 16 September until Sunday 8 October. Visitors will be encouraged to journey through each of the viaduct arches where they'll hear fragments of spoken word, ambient sounds and deliberate silences, each reflecting aspects and dimensions of the wonder of gardens, stimulated by the unique context of Kilver Court's gardens, its past, its present and its future. On Sunday 1 October between 2pm – 4pm there will be an artist's tour, where David will discuss and describe the installation.

Kilver Court founder, Roger Saul adds "We're delighted to be a part of such an exciting arts festival which showcases the talent and diversity of artists in our county. It's been fascinating to see a renowned artist such as David be inspired by our gardens and craft his work around the history and culture of our site. We're excited to be able to offer visitors to our garden the opportunity to experience the unique installation David will create, and hope they enjoy seeing (and hearing) our gardens in a way not experienced before."

Somerset Art Weeks Festival is one of the biggest showcases of visual arts in Somerset, bringing together artists throughout the country to reflect on Somerset in a series of commissions, residencies and curated shows. This year, selected artists have been chosen to make new work leading up to the Festival, each taking a different approach to the theme, 'A Landscape of Objects'. This multi-site exhibition will consist of a series of location-specific commissions across a range of media and each artist will set their work within different cultivated landscapes of Somerset including Lytes Cary, Hestercombe and Forde Abbey.

**In the Air** runs from 16 September – 8 October. The art installation is free to experience but the standard garden entry fee of £5.00 will apply. Kilver Court Gardens will be open every day throughout the Festival during the following opening times: Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm (with last entry at 4pm) and Sunday 10am – 4.30pm (with last entry 3.30pm).

- ENDS -

To find out more about **In the Air** at Kilver Court or to request images, please contact Nickie Davies, Head of PR and Marketing at [nickie@kilvercourt.com](mailto:nickie@kilvercourt.com) or 01749 340416 or Rachael McInnes, Marketing Executive at [rachael@kilvercourt.com](mailto:rachael@kilvercourt.com) or 01749 340414.