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PRESS RELEASE

SOPHIE RYDER: SCULPTURE, DRAWING, PRINTS. A NEW FREE EXHIBITION AT LAKESIDE ARTS

Saturday 19 November 2022 – Sunday 12 March 2023

Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham

Admission Free

A new solo exhibition of internationally acclaimed artist Sophie Ryder opens this November at the Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts. The show, guaranteed to be a sure-fire success with our youngest visitors as well as seasoned art lovers, provides a unique opportunity for people in Nottingham and the region to enjoy sculptures, drawings and prints by an artist whose profound love of animals speaks through her artwork.

Sophie Ryder is renowned for her large-scale open-air sculptures of mystical hybrid creatures. Among her cast of characters, the Ladyhare features often, either alone or paired with her male counterpart, the Minotaur of classical mythology. An example of one of her monumental works can be seen at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and, earlier this year, her large outdoor sculptures were shown at the Piece Hall in Halifax. Best known for her sculptures made of twisted wire, the artist also works in bronze, plaster, sheet metal and marble.

Her solo exhibition in Nottingham, filling all three spaces of the Djanogly Gallery, offers a more intimate glimpse into Ryder's studio practice including a selection of smaller-scale sculptures alongside drawings of her favoured subjects such as portraits of her pet dogs.

The installation *Temple to the 200 Rabbits* – which is the highlight of the exhibition – commands a gallery of its own. This ambitious work was inspired by two personal experiences. The first, of a rabbit farm in France, engendered outrage in the artist at the terrible conditions in which the animals were kept. The second, encountered on a holiday in Mexico, was of an Aztec temple dedicated to a rabbit god who presided over drunken revelries. It was this that gave the piece its title.

Neil Walker, Head of Visual Arts at Lakeside, says: "Sophie Ryder has established a great reputation for her public sculptural works and exhibitions going back to the 1980s. I am really pleased to be showing her work following on from our acclaimed *Elisabeth Frink* exhibition in 2015 and the more recent show *Breaking the Mould* in 2021 featuring modern women sculptors."

Families will be able to pick up an Arts Investigator pack to help children explore the exhibition in a fun way. There are two cafés on site offering a selection of drinks and delicious bites, and visitors can also enjoy the beautiful parklands of the Highfields Park alongside their exhibition visit. To find out more about the exhibition and accompanying talks and workshops, visit lakesidearts.org.uk/SophieRyder

-- ENDS --

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact Lakeside Arts' Marketing and Communications Manager Mária Konyeliccka at maria.konyeliccka@nottingham.ac.uk

0115 846 7777 | lakesidearts.org.uk
Lakeside Arts, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

NOTES TO EDITORS

Sophie Ryder was the youngest student after JMW Turner to be admitted to the Royal Academy of Arts in London. After completing her studies Ryder was invited to be Artist in Residence at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Since graduating in 1986, Ryder has shown her work all over the world including major outdoor sculpture exhibitions at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, UK; Blickachsen, Germany; Frederik Meijer Sculpture Park, USA; Pilane, Sweden and Salisbury Cathedral, UK and The Piece Hall, Halifax. Gallery exhibitions include Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford; Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal; Newport City Museum & Art Gallery; Odapark, Venray, Netherlands; Royal West Academy, Bristol. Public and corporate collections that hold her work include Barings Bank; Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum; De Beers Collection; The National Trust; The Private Bank and Trust Company Ltd; Robert and Mary Montgomery Armory Arts Center, Palm Beach; Victoria Art Gallery, Bath; The Phoebus Foundation, Antwerp.

www.sophieryder.com

Instagram @sophieryderartist

Lakeside Arts is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts and museum exhibitions, theatre, dance, children and families' productions, workshops as well as a learning programme for everyone. Its venues include the Djanogly Recital Hall which stages concerts by internationally renowned soloists and chamber ensembles; the Djanogly Gallery; the University Museum which has a permanent collection of archaeology covering a period of some 250,000 years; and the Djanogly Theatre presenting UK and international touring work as well as producing and co-producing new theatre and dance.

www.lakesidearts.org.uk

Lakeside Arts Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @LakesideArts

RELATED EVENTS

LAUNCH EVENT | Friday 18 November, 6.30-9pm

Join us for a great night out to celebrate the launch of the exhibition – admission is free, no prior booking required. Each guest will receive a free drink and a chance to get a first look at the exhibition.

MAKING AND MEANING: GLIMPSES OF SOPHIE RYDER'S ARTISTIC ODYSSEY | Friday 25 November, 1pm

Jon Benington (formerly Manager of Victoria Art Gallery, Bath) is the author of the first monograph on Sophie Ryder. He is joined by the artist to discuss the development of her sculptural practice from the 1990s and her expanding range of media from wire and bronze to carving in marble.

GALLERY TOURS

Thursday 26 January, 1-2pm

Thursday 23 February 1-2pm

LISTING INFORMATION

Exhibition Dates: Saturday 19 November 2022 – Sunday 12 March 2023

Opening Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm | Sunday 12noon-4pm (Closed Mondays)

Address: Djanogly Gallery, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

Admissions: Free

Events: For talks and events tickets please book online or call the Box Office on 0115 846 7777

0115 846 7777 | lakesidearts.org.uk

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IMAGES

1. *Lovers on Horseback* (detail). Photo: Ellis Robinson



2. *Luigi Head with Foot*, 2017. Photo: Ellis Robinson



3. The artist in her studio. Photo: Anne Purkiss

