

Press release: 28 September 2011

Elizabeth Dysart, Garden Designer: artist's commission and workshops



The Cherry Garden at Ham House, Surrey © NTPL/John Hammond

Animate Projects is delighted to announce that Carolina Melis has been commissioned to make an animated film inspired by both the historic gardens of National Trust property, Ham House and Garden, and the estates 17th Century owner, Elizabeth Dysart, who held the vision for the garden.

Carolina is an award-winning illustrator and animator. She has made several short films, including *As the Crow Flies* for Animate in 2005, and *La Fiamme di Nule* for the Institute of Ethnography in Sardinia.

Carolina will work with cultural historian Elizabeth Lebas to unlock the historical and social context of the gardens. She will lead workshops at the house with members of local community group, Ham Multicultural Women's Group that consider the extraordinary character of Elizabeth Dysart and the innovation of her garden design.

The film will premiere at Ham House and Garden in April 2012 and will then be presented on the Ham House website and on animateprojects.org, alongside an interview with Carolina Melis and an essay by Elizabeth Lebas.

The commission is part of Garden of Reason, a contemporary art programme at Ham House and Garden, and is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, Trust New Art and National Trust.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

For updates about the project visit:

http://www.animateprojects.org/films/by_project/residencies/elizabeth_dysart_garden_designer

Carolina Melis

Originally from Sardinia, Carolina trained in dance and choreography, developing an interest in screen-based movement and animation and illustration that led to a Masters at Central St Martins. Carolina has directed music videos and commercial projects, and is a Director at Nexus Productions. Her work, greatly informed by her background in choreography, explores ideas of delicacy, organic development, life-cycles and living relationships, yielding elegantly tragic pieces with a subtle romance. Visit <http://www.carolinamelis.com/>

Elizabeth Lebas

Elizabeth Lebas has continuing interests in French theoretical works on the city and urbanism. She has translated and edited, amongst others, writings by Henri Lefebvre. Research has included the filmed representations of urban and housing reform in Europe between the wars and the history and representation of modern landscapes. She is presently working on design and gardening of urban open public spaces in the early twentieth century.

Garden of Reason

The programme will be open to the public 28 April – 16 September 2012 and features eight site-specific artist's commissions, interactive projects, and a programme of talks and live art. The project has been designed to shift perceptions of Ham House and the National Trust, encourage new visitors and provide greater understanding of the place. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, Trust New Art and National Trust.

About Ham House and Garden

Ham House and Garden is a National Trust property near the Thames in the Royal Borough of Richmond. The property has been owned by the Trust since 1948 and is one of the finest survivals of 17th-century art, architecture and garden design, whose historic and artistic integrity has remained mostly intact after four hundred years of occupation. Visit <http://beta.nationaltrust.org.uk/ham-house>

About Animate Projects

Animate Projects champions experiments and creative risk taking in animation across a broad spectrum of practice. It is the only UK organisation dedicated to commissioning and exhibiting innovative animation online and on digital platforms. Since 2008, animateprojects.org has received over 800,000 visitors and has an international reputation as a place to encounter outstanding work by British artists.

Animate Projects is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Experiments in animation - <http://www.animateprojects.org>

Connect with us - Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/AnimateProjects> / Twitter - <http://twitter.com/animateprojects> / Blog - <http://animateprojectsobserver.com>

Further press information:

Abigail Addison at Animate Projects

abigail@animateprojects.org

+44 (0)207 407 3944 or +44 (0)778 968 6903

