

## Fermynwoods Contemporary Art News Release

### **Andrew Stonyer: *Audio Kinetic Solar Sculpture***

Fermyn Woods Country Park, Brigstock, nr Kettering

**29 March – 26 September 2010**

Private view Sunday 28 March, 4-6pm, all press and media welcome

Introduction by the artist from 4.30pm



Andrew Stonyer, *Audio Kinetic  
Solar Sculpture*, National  
Arboretum, 2004

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art begins its latest year-round programme of innovative art projects, working with artists to explore and reflect on art and ecology across the region. We are pleased to present artist Andrew Stonyer and his *Audio Kinetic Solar Sculpture* at Fermyn Woods Country Park.

Stonyer describes his sculpture as “a search for patterns of actual and implied kinetic imagery, hidden within the seemingly regular”. Key to this is his interest in the concept of Aeolian Harps<sup>1</sup>, as well as pre- classical Greek sculptures which are said to have produced sounds in response to the sun. What Stonyer finds so significant about the latter is that they not only responded to natural phenomena, but they also derived their motive power from nature. Central to the work that Stonyer creates is a response through actual and implied movement, to cosmic and technological time. Examples of the latter are his commission *Time Within the Hour* for Cumberland Infirmary, where the sculpture responds to the quarterly divisions of the hour; and in the commission *Pulse*, for Newcastle upon Tyne metro, which responds to the vibrations of trains as they enter and leave Four Lane Ends station.

In this new commission for Fermynwoods Contemporary Art at Fermyn Woods Country Park the *Audio Kinetic Solar Sculpture* responds to changes in sunlight. Suspended from a central point within the small group of Elder trees situated in front of the Country Park Centre, Stonyer’s remarkable sculpture responds directly through sound and movement to the daily cycle of the sun so that it almost literally orchestrates the sun’s daily cycle as well as its

momentary fluctuations. In deriving its electrical power from the nearby solar-cells, this sculpture is independent of any other external power source and might therefore be compared to a 'Solar Aeolian harp'.

Andrew Stonyer will also be leading a series of informative talks, workshops and other events, to explore some themes of his work. For more information call 01536 373469.

### **Bank Holiday Monday 5 April 2010**

10.30am– 2.30pm, Booking essential on 01536 373469

£5 per person, Family £15\* \*(2 adults 2 children)

A perfect choice for some Bank Holiday fun - Join artist Andrew Stonyer for a walk into Fermyn Woods, viewing the artists work and a chance for you to create your own innovative representation of sound and light in the forest using electrical circuitry.

#### **Notes for editors:**

- Andrew Stonyer studied at Northampton School of Art, Loughborough College of Art and Leicester polytechnic and the Architectural Association School of Architecture. In 1978 he was awarded the first PhD for studio based research in Fine Art in the UK. This concerned the use of solar energy in the development of kinetic sculpture. He has taught, exhibited and completed commissions in Turkey, Holland, Canada and the United States of America, and his work can be found in public and private collections in all of these countries. Currently he is professor in Fine Art at the University of Gloucestershire. Recent exhibitions include - Westonbirt Festival of the Garden'; 'Sculptors Drawing' Burghley Sculpture Garden; 'Open Sculpture', Royal West of England Academy; 'Figure', Burghley Sculpture Garden; Autumn Exhibition, Royal West of England Academy. 2009 'Kinetic' Royal British Society of Sculptors studio gallery, London; 'Promenade' Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; 'Timepiece' Royal British Society of Sculptors and 'Kinetica 2010', London
- For directions to the Country Park visit;  
<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/leisure/countryside/pages/fermywoodmap.aspx>
- Fermynwoods Contemporary Art exists to make contemporary art part of people's lives through promotion, presentation, interpretation and education. It is dedicated to raising the artistic banner for the East Midlands and beyond.
- Fermynwoods Contemporary Art is funded by Arts Council England, East Midlands.

For more information or press images contact Paul Denton, General Manager  
[paul@fermywood.co.uk](mailto:paul@fermywood.co.uk)

This project is generously supported by;



Forestry Commission  
England



Northamptonshire  
County Council



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHAMPTON

The estate of the late  
Doris Ella Reynolds

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art

T: 01563 373 469

E: [gallery@fermywood.co.uk](mailto:gallery@fermywood.co.uk)

W: [www.fermywood.co.uk](http://www.fermywood.co.uk) (currently under construction redesign)

Registered number: 5434735

Charity number 1122678

Ends

Date of issue 15.02.01

1. An aeolian harp is a musical instrument that is "played" by the wind.