

PRESS RELEASE

Black Swan

Kenny Hunter

Barnwell Country Park, Barnwell Rd, Oundle, PE8 5PB

Open Everyday 8.30am – 6pm

Until 31 August 2018



Kenny Hunter creates anthropomorphic sculptures, using animal characteristics to represent human emotions and to explore our relationship to the social and artistic legacies of the past.

The Swan has many modern symbolic associations, including Love, as pairs are known to bond for a lifetime. However, before the discovery of Australia, Europeans were convinced that all swans were white, and the phrase 'Black Swan' was a common expression as a statement of impossibility. The discovery of black swans in 1697 by a

Dutch explorer invalidated this long held belief. In 2007, N.N. Taleb coined the phrase 'Black Swan Theory' to describe any event that is unexpected and makes a strong impact, against the prevailing view of the time. The Black Swan therefore continues one of the oldest artistic traditions; creating animal sculptures that reflect on our changing relationship to the world around us.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Black Swan is part of the *Beyond Seven Mountains* exhibition taking place across Rockingham Forest, which also features artwork by **Robin Rimbaud (Scanner)** and **Holly Slingsby** in Thoroughsale Wood, Corby, NN17 2UN, until 31 October 2016.

Beyond Seven Mountains features temporary artist interventions that evoke a sense of narrative and was inspired by Sophie Herxheimer's residency and artist book, *The Listening Forest*, which combined personal experience with poetry and drawing to create a new anthology for Rockingham Forest. The exhibition title originates from the way Central European fairy tales begin; "A long time ago, beyond seven mountains, beyond seven forests" and refers to the way contemporary artists continue the tradition of storytellers, reinventing myths and legends, to create new folklore for our time.

The Black Swan was previously exhibited in Liverpool and in Canary Wharf and was commissioned for the Blickachsen exhibition in Bad Homburg, Germany, in 2013.

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art is an educational charity that commissions innovative and meaningful ways for artists to engage with audiences, in public spaces across Northamptonshire and online.

For further information please contact Yasmin Canvin on 01832 731257 or yasmin@fermynwoods.co.uk.

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