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IT'S A WRAP

Paper artist Maeve Clancy commences residency at Barrington Court

On Friday 21st June paper artist and illustrator Maeve Clancy commenced her 14-day residency at the National Trust's Barrington Court in Somerset. During this period she will redefine the Barrington's Great Hall with her striking paperwork installation, influenced by the work of Barrington Court restorer Alfred Hoare Powell and gardener Gertrude Jekyll. The residency will conclude 5th July and the installation will be exhibited until October 2013.

Maeve's installation is part of Somerset Art Works' Make the Most project, you will be able to view further transformations of Barrington Court by artists and makers working in willow, stone, leather and wood. All these works can be viewed both over the summer months and during the county's flagship Somerset Art Weeks festival (21st September – 6th October 2013).

Of key importance to the Make the Most project is the use of locally sourced materials, and acknowledgement is given to the contribution of local suppliers and manufacturers to the local economy and ecology of the county. Maeve is working very closely with the family-owned Two Rivers Paper Mill in Somerset that makes high quality, handmade watercolour paper using cotton and linen.

Maeve comments: "There are two parts to this commission that make it very special for me. One is getting to design and make a piece of art for a National Trust property, this being the first time that I've had that opportunity. As a person with a strong interest in history and place, getting to make an artwork inside a building that is close to five hundred years old is a genuine privilege. I am making a piece based on one particular period in that history but the surroundings make me constantly aware that there are so many other personal histories belonging to this site.

Which leads to the other part of this project which sets it aside: working on location. In fact, I'm also staying on the estate for the duration of making the artwork, so each morning my 'commute' involves passing the ducklings on the moat, walking through the rose garden and taking a peek at the white garden before I go indoors. Then I spend the day in the old kitchen, cutting by the beautiful natural light, describing in cut paper the place in which I sit. I now find it hard to believe that I make all of my other installations in a studio, away from their final location."

See Maeve's blog: paperatbarrington.wordpress.com

On 25th and 27th June artist/maker Julie Roberts ran two primary school workshops in papermaking, using pulp from Two Rivers and natural materials collected from Barrington Court's gardens. The schools involved were Curry Mallet Primary School, Huish Episcopi Primary School and Huish Episcopi Academy. Maeve introduced her Barrington Court project to the pupils, and will look to incorporate some of the paper they made into her installation.

A family papermaking workshop is arranged for 31st July within the grounds of Barrington Court.

From a National Trust perspective, the partnership with Somerset Art Works is the latest in a series of events that have brought contemporary art to the National Trust's Barrington Court, the most recent of which was the display of Antony Gormley's *Field for the British Isles*. Together with Arts Council England, the National Trust runs Trust New Art, a programme devised to promote contemporary and modern art in its historic places.

Make the Most is an initiative of Somerset Art Works run in partnership with the National Trust at Barrington Court, and curated by Craftspace. It is funded by Arts Council England, National Trust and Somerset County Council CIDF.

The attached pdfs show Maeve Clancy at work, examples of her intricate and large-scale paper work and sketches for her Barrington Court installation. More pictures of her at work on her Barrington Court installation will be available from June 27.

- Ends -

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Notes to Editors:

1. Somerset Art Works (SAW Ltd) is a non-profit organisation that promotes the visual arts and creates opportunities for visual artists and makers in Somerset through advocacy, promotion and development.

2. Somerset Art Weeks (September 21-October 6 2013) was launched in 1994 and has developed into one of the biggest arts festivals in the UK. Originally biennial, it is now firmly established as an annual event. The focus of Somerset Art Weeks alternates yearly between an open studio event and an exhibition-based event. The 2012 Open Studios was a great success attracting well over 50,000 visitors to 221 venues.

3. The Somerset Art Weeks **free** guide will provide a fully illustrated introduction and commentary on all of the artworks on display during the event. The catalogue will be available from July 2013 within tourist information centres and libraries across Somerset.

4. Barrington Court is a Tudor manor house whose construction began around 1538 and was completed in the late 1550s. It is situated in Barrington, near Ilminster, Somerset. In the 18th century the house fell into disrepair and was used as a tenant farm, but after its subsequent repair by Alfred Hoare Powell it was the first house acquired by the National Trust (1907). Barrington Court was originally surrounded by a medieval deer park and in the 17th century a formal garden was constructed. This had largely disappeared until a new garden was laid out by Gertrude Jekyll in an 'Arts and Crafts style' in the first half of the 20th century. It now contains walled kitchen gardens, fruit orchards and ornamental gardens. Alfred Hoare Powell and Gertrude Jekyll are major inspirations within Maeve's installation.

5. For further information about the National Trust and Barrington Court see www.nationaltrust.org.uk/barrington-court