

ASCOT LIFE

SUNNINGHILL & SUNNINGDALE

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ROYAL ASCOT

Tuesday 16th – Saturday 20th June 2015

COMPETITION

WIN CHELSEA FLOWER
SHOW TICKETS

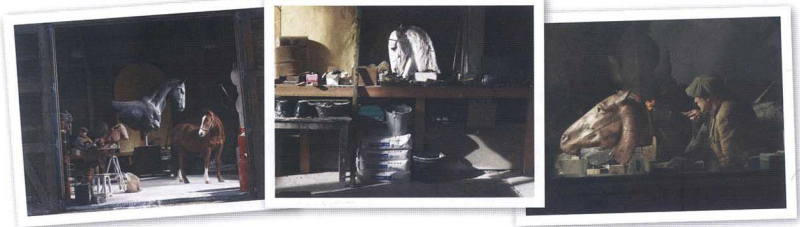
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NEW EXHIBITION

Sculptor of monumental horse heads, commanding prestigious sites around the world has a new exhibition at Sladmore Contemporary. An inside look at the artist's hilltop Surrey studio and workshop, with new work in progress

Nic Fiddian-Green is completing a series of new sculptures for this solo show, which will include Arab stallions and horses inspired by the art of the Chinese Han and Tang dynasties. This makes a departure from the ancient Greek ideal for Nic Fiddian-Green.

When he first saw the Great Horse of Selene, one of the Elgin Marbles at the British Museum, it was like a lightning flash. 'A lesson in balance and harmony and proportion. For the past 30 years I've focused on capturing the beauty of a horse's head, though I will never surpass the Parthenon Horse of Selene, who drew the chariot of the Moon Goddess across the sky.'

Last year his art took a new direction. Swire Properties (one of the most important companies in the Far East) commissioned a Fiddian-Green sculpture for the garden of their headquarters in Hong Kong, a 16 foot tall bronze 'Horse at Water' which rests on the surface of a water pool. The Chinese horse includes a new element: cracks on the bronze surface, which suggest, says Nic, 'a fractured form, emphasising time and history.'

This was the first sculpture by Nic Fiddian-Green to be permanently installed in Hong Kong. His colossal horses' heads make a powerful impact wherever they stand: on a Surrey hill near his family house, Ascot and Goodwood racecourses, in an Italian

castle courtyard, Glyndebourne Opera House, public sites in Australia and North America. The best known sculpture by Nic Fiddian-Green remains his landmark 'Still Water' at Marble Arch.

There will be a faithful recreation of Nic Fiddian-Green's Surrey hilltop studio, near Bramley, at the Sladmore show, giving visitors an inside view of the artist's working environment. He will answer visitors' questions while demonstrating his modelling and metal working skills.

Nic and his family moved to Surrey in the early 90s, have embraced country life, and take their horses out for miles on Saturday mornings. Nic, his wife Henrietta, and their four children ride from their home to Hascombe across the hills.

Nic finds perfect peace on the steps of his shepherd's hut at Wintershall Lake, where he likes to fish. He arrives at his east facing studio at 5 am, inspired by his favourite view: 'I can see the sun rising across the fields and over the wood, looking down over an undisturbed valley.'

Nic's noble horses' heads have attracted a long list of distinguished collectors: movie stars, Middle Eastern princes, business giants, best selling writers, landowning grandees, from Tom Cruise and Russell Crowe to the Countess of Derby and Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani of Qatar. ■

10 JUNE
- 31 JULY
2015

THE DETAILS

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