

PRESS RELEASE

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[www.jerwoodopenforest.org](http://www.jerwoodopenforest.org)

[www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)

## Jerwood Open Forest, Commission Announced

A major £30,000 commission is awarded to Keith Harrison

New works by Jerwood Open Forest artists are on display at Jerwood Space until 11 December

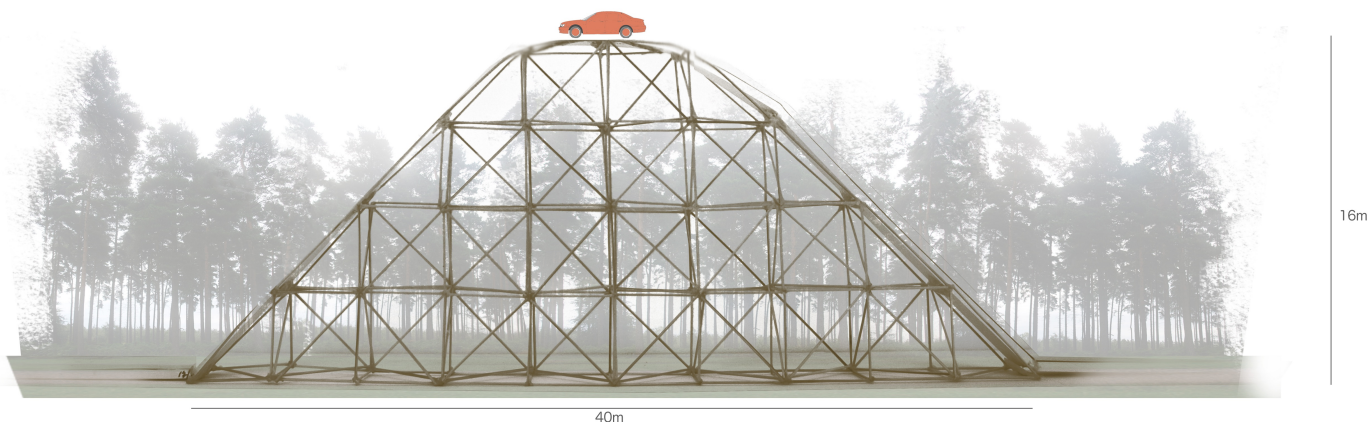


Keith Harrison, Jerwood Open Forest exhibition 2016. Image © Hydar Dewachi

Artist **Keith Harrison** has been awarded a major £30,000 commission through the 2016 edition of **Jerwood Open Forest**; established by **Forestry Commission England** and **Jerwood Charitable Foundation**, with support from **Arts Council England**. The project seeks to contribute to a national discussion around how contemporary artists engage with the environment today, presenting forests as a rich and immersive platform for bold and ambitious works.

Keith Harrison's project *Joyride* will be realised at **Cannock Chase Forest** in Autumn 2017 where he will ceremonially release a clay replica of a Rover 75 down a specially constructed roller coaster style ramp, providing a pertinent commentary on the rise and fall of car manufacturing in the area. Inspired by Harrison's upbringing in the heavily post-industrialised Black Country, the performative sculpture will bring together industrial and recreational forces within the forest, aligning the urban and natural environment on a monumental scale. Both relevant and reminiscent, *Joyride* frames the rich and historical relationship between car and landscape in a contemporary context, through which it has the potential to resonate and engage with an extremely diverse audience.

*'The opportunity to realise a project which links the former Rover factory at Longbridge, Birmingham where my mother and grandfather worked and Cannock Chase, a wilderness we visited regularly as a family whilst growing up in the Black Country is immense. The work will see the social and environmental impact of the car in forests and the demise of automotive manufacture collide.'* **Keith Harrison**



Keith Harrison, *Joyride*, Research and Development drawing, Jerwood Open Forest 2016

The winning commission was selected by a panel of leading practitioners and project partners including: **Katherine Clarke**, artist and founding partner of muf architecture/art; **Neville Gabie**, artist; **Shonagh Manson**, Director, Jerwood Charitable Foundation; **Hayley Skipper**, National Arts Development Programme Manager, Forestry Commission England and **Dr Joy Sleeman**, writer, curator and lecturer.

*'Keith has demonstrated an uncompromisingly strong artistic vision throughout the development of his proposal. His investment in research, technical considerations and palpable connection with both the chosen site and themes being explored have been unwavering. We are very much looking forward to working on realising this ambitious project with Keith.'* **Hayley Skipper**, National Arts Development Programme Manager, Forestry Commission England



Keith Harrison with a prototype of *Joyride* at Cannock Chase Forest, film still © Steve Gammond

Born in West Bromwich in the Black Country, Keith Harrison studied Ceramics at Cardiff School of Art and Design before completing his MA in Ceramics and Glass at the Royal College of Art in 2002. He has exhibited widely across the UK and realised large-scale works for public galleries and Museums including the V&A, Camden Arts Centre and Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art. In 2011, Harrison exhibited multimedia installation *Float* at Jerwood Space, London, commissioned as part of the biennial initiative Jerwood Makers Open.

The **Jerwood Open Forest** exhibition continues at Jerwood Space, London until 11 December.

For further details about Jerwood Open Forest and to follow the development of the commission, please visit: [jerwoodopenforest.org](http://jerwoodopenforest.org)

For further information about the Jerwood Visual Arts programme please visit: [jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://jerwoodvisualarts.org) or follow Jerwood Visual Arts on Twitter and Instagram: @JerwoodJVA #JOF16

-Ends-

### Exhibition Information

Title: Jerwood Open Forest  
 Dates: 2 November - 11 December 2016  
 Address: Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, London SE1 0LN  
 Opening Times: Mon–Fri from 10am–5pm, Sat & Sun from 10am–3pm  
 Admission: Free  
 Nearest Tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough  
 Website: [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org) / [www.jerwoodopenforest.org](http://www.jerwoodopenforest.org)  
 Twitter/Instagram: @JerwoodJVA #JOF

**Jerwood Visual Arts** will host a series of evening events to accompany the exhibition. All events are free - advanced booking is required. For more information please check the website: [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)

### **Notes to editors**

First launched in 2013 and now in its second edition, **Jerwood Open Forest** is a collaboration between Jerwood Charitable Foundation and Forestry Commission England with the support of Arts Council England.

From an exceptional response of strong and diverse proposals, five projects were selected for a six-month research and development period. The artists each received a £2,000 research and development fee and support from Jerwood Visual Arts and Forestry Commission England to expand on the concept of their proposal and explore potential sites through this phase.

During the Research and Development period, shortlisted artists **Rebecca Beinart, Magz Hall, Keith Harrison, David Rickard** and **David Turley** each expanded upon their initial proposals, exploring the notion of art in the public realm, by definition and in practice. In the second Jerwood Open Forest exhibition (2 November – 11 December 2016), the artists present new works which serve as a distillation of their Research and Development period, comprising painting, sculpture, installation and film. The presentations are diverse in terms of process and materials but are united by themes of loss and legacy and transformation.

Commissions realised through the inaugural 2014 initiative include *Hrafn: Conversations with Odin* composed by **Chris Watson** and produced by **Iain Pate** and spherical sculpture *Cosmos* by artist duo **Semiconductor (Ruth Jarman and Joe Gerhardt)** which remains on permanent display at [Alice Holt Forest](#) in Surrey.

### Project Partners:

**Jerwood Visual Arts** is a national programme supporting visual arts practice, through which Jerwood Charitable Foundation works with early career artists to commission and present new work. Artist opportunities run throughout the year alongside a programme of related exhibitions, events and commissioned writing taking place online, in London and across the UK. [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)

**Jerwood Charitable Foundation** is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. For more information visit [www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org)

**Forestry Commission England** is recognised and respected as an international leader in sustainable forestry. Working with others we look after the country's trees, woods and forests for the good of everyone - today and for the future. Our reputation has been built on our expertise and our ability to achieve results that benefit people's lives. These benefits include the unique Public Forest Estate where millions of visitors enjoy a wide range of recreational activities every year. [www.forestry.gov.uk/visit](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/visit)

We believe that **Forest Art Works**. Since 1968 England's Public Forest Estate has played host to artworks and initiatives across artforms. We believe that woods and forests are vital places for contemporary artists to engage with, to make and present new work. Forest Art Works is a new partnership between Arts Council England and Forestry Commission England to support achieving great art and culture for everyone in England's public forests. [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestartworks](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestartworks)

Supporter:

**Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries - from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we will invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk).