

NEWS RELEASE

6 July 2009

For immediate release

The Royal Parks Foundation, with Halcyon Gallery, unveils *Isis*, a new sculpture in Hyde Park

On Monday 7 September 2009, the Royal Parks Foundation, the charity for London's eight Royal Parks, will unveil a new sculpture, *Isis*, in Hyde Park. *Isis* is the focal point of a £1.8 million fundraising appeal, launched in partnership with Halcyon Gallery, to build a new, eco-friendly education centre in Hyde Park. The centre will be built at the *Look Out* and will provide a doorway to lead thousands of city children into the natural world, encouraging them to appreciate wildlife and look after the environment.

To help raise the £1.8 million needed to make this vision a reality, the Royal Parks Foundation has collaborated with Halcyon Gallery and artist Simon Gudgeon to create an iconic new sculpture called *Isis*, after the goddess of nature. *Isis* will be unveiled on the shores of the Serpentine on 7 September and will have 1,000 plaques permanently inlaid around her base, each one available to be engraved with a personal name and each raising £1,000 for the *Look Out*. Park visitors will also be able to support the centre through a donation box incorporated in the base of *Isis*. An exhibition telling the story of *Isis*'s development and creation can currently be seen at Halcyon Gallery on Bruton Street.

The proposed *Look Out* development encompasses a 1.3 acre site in the centre of Hyde Park, which welcomes over 1,000 young people each year. However, the existing facilities are cramped and have seen better days. The new sustainably-built education centre will have two classrooms and will also provide a base for The Royal Parks' Education Team and the Royal Parks Foundation. The surrounding area will benefit from new wildlife ponds and an improved nature trail.

Royal Parks Education Officer, Nick Lane, explains: *“Getting out into the Park is a great learning experience for city kids. The children enjoy over 15 different activities ranging from mini-beast observations, tree studies and the weather cycle, to recycling, birdlife and park occupations”*.

Royal Parks Foundation Chairman, Joel Cadbury, says: *“Please support the Look Out by pledging your plaque today to allow one of London’s most special places to fulfil its true potential.”*

Zac & Sheherazade Goldsmith and Trudie Styler & Sting are amongst those who have already dedicated a plaque at Isis in support of the new *Look Out* education centre.

“The Royal Parks provide some of the most important ecological centres in our country and Hyde Park is one of the least polluted spots in central London. The new Look Out centre will be the perfect place for young people to learn more about the natural world.” says Zac Goldsmith, Trustee of the Royal Parks Foundation.

Members of the public wishing to make a donation or see their name or that of a loved one engraved on a plaque at *Isis* in Hyde Park should visit www.royalparksfoundation.org for further information.

Paul Green, President of Halcyon Gallery, who has generously donated *Isis* says: *“We at Halcyon Gallery are incredibly proud to support the development of education in Hyde Park. The legacy of this wonderful sculpture by Simon Gudgeon will benefit and inspire future generations.”*

Contact information:

For further information on the *Look Out* please contact:

Clare Bowen at The Royal Parks Foundation on 020 7298 2139 or cbowen@royalparksfoundation.org

For more details on *Isis* and Simon Gudgeon please contact:

Iliana Taliotis, Helen Wharton or Truda Spruyt at Colman Getty Consultancy on 020 7631 2666 or email iliana@colmangetty.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

Isis

Simon Gudgeon's beautiful new sculpture, *Isis*, has been commissioned by the Royal Parks Foundation to raise £1 million for the Look Out education centre. The sculpture will include a donation box at Isis's feet, and 1,000 plaques around her base. Each plaque can be purchased for £1,000, with all money going directly to the project. The plaques will be in place in perpetuity in Hyde Park, and donors can have their own names, or the names of loved ones inscribed.

For more information and to dedicate a plaque please visit: www.royalparksfoundation.org

Royal Parks Foundation

The Royal Parks Foundation, the charity for London's eight Royal Parks, reaches out to make the Parks part of more people's lives and aims to help improve their financial future.

One of the Foundation's key charitable objectives is to support education and community projects and the new Look Out centre will be a legacy for future generations of young people. Registered charity number 1097545.

The Royal Parks

The Royal Parks is an executive agency of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The Royal Parks are: Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill, Richmond Park, and St James's Park. For further information please visit: www.royalparks.org.uk

Halcyon Gallery

Situated in the heart of Mayfair, London, Halcyon Gallery is one of Europe's leading art galleries, representing some of the finest painters and sculptors working today. Halcyon Gallery is committed to supporting and nurturing outstanding living artists, specialising in fine art and master graphics as well as original paintings, drawings and sculpture.

2008 marked the 25th anniversary of Halcyon Gallery and the opening of a magnificent new flagship gallery at 24 Bruton Street. Joining the existing gallery at 29 New Bond Street, this elegant five-storey Georgian building has been renovated to create a stunning exhibition space suitable for the finest art. For further information please visit: www.halcyongallery.com

Simon Gudgeon

Simon Gudgeon is an acclaimed British sculptor, whose unique signature style represents the movement and emotions of nature in smooth forms and lines. Simon has attained worldwide recognition in recent years, and exhibited internationally, with highly-acclaimed shows in London, New York, San Diego, Paris and the Netherlands. His work features in many important private collections both in the UK and abroad, such as those of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Bedford and the Duke of Northumberland. *Sculpture by the Lakes* in Pallington, Dorset, was opened by Simon Gudgeon in association with Halcyon Gallery in September 2008, presenting Gudgeon's works in a beautiful rural setting,

A complementary exhibition, *Isis*, is currently on show at Halcyon Gallery.

-ends-