

Preview: FRED Festival

ARTSUPDATE

Eden Arts is supported by Eden District Council, Arts Council England North West and Cumbria County Council

FRED - AN ART INVASION

FRED, the festival of site-specific art, will once again invade Cumbria from 28 September to 14 October. Since 2004 FRED has brought over 300 local, national and international artists to Cumbria, and has hosted more than 100 projects.

FRED aims to challenge the way art is created and the way it is viewed. Pieces range from the minute and intimate to public spectacles, or even memorials.

The Eden Valley has always played a key role in the festival and been the location for a number of major works. This year, Eden forests will play host to a giant spider web-like creation of LED lights and electronic sensors. The piece, *ReasonNet*, is a collaboration by Chinese architect William Hailang Chen and Mark Francis Tynan, is intended to interact with the environment and the viewer. On display day and night for two weeks, it explores the boundaries between, nature, art and technology.

→ American artist Christine Wong Yap, will be inflating bin bags to create words on the lawn of Brougham Hall, and Irish artist, Gareth Kennedy, will site a floating transparent sauna, *The Sweatbox*, on Ullswater. This will be one of the few FRED works to charge, but it has proved to be tremendous success on the River Shannon and north west lakeland in Ireland.

from tourists and locals to international art viewers. The FRED invasion is a rural response to the art world and aims to raise Cumbria's profile as a hub for contemporary art as well as for landscape painting and pottery.

The FRED brochure is now available and more information can be found at www.freds.blog.co.uk where there will be times, location, and directions for every piece of work.



Sarah Cockings and Alice Hodge