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This garden, dominated by a steel sculpture of a prone woman, features at the 19th International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire – turn to page 93 for details.

News

COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI

Gardens show soul

The theme of the 19th International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire is 'Gardens Body and Soul'. The interpretations from the 24 gardens are refreshingly varied, with entrants from the UK, Germany, Italy, Japan, France and the Netherlands. Designers Francesca Vacirca, Stefano Marinaz and Daniela Tonegatti have collaborated to create a sensory garden (*Hortithérapie Sensorielle*). The garden exudes scent and clouds of steam that coil around a recumbent woman made from steel panels, cut with a plasma laser. The festival continues until 17 October. www.domaine-chaumont.fr

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEFANO MARINAZ

ART

National Trust goes avant garde

Performance artist Marcia Farquhar declaims astride a life-size rocking horse on the lawns at Tatton Park (below right), while Steve Messam's giant red water lilies float in the lake (above right). Meanwhile, a dead tree at Croft Castle in Herefordshire is wrapped in red ribbon by artist Philippa Lawrence. All these works have been commissioned for Trust New Art, a three-year partnership between the National Trust and Arts Council England that introduces contemporary arts and crafts into the gardens and buildings of historic houses. Other commissions include Annika Eriksson's lilliputian cinema, where vintage footage by Tatton's colourful former owner Maurice Egerton is intercut with the artist's own films. "We are not afraid to be challenging," says Tatton project manager Tom Freshwater.



These house name and number plates from ashortwalk are pure eco-chic. Made from recycled vending machine coffee cups, they look like slate but won't chip or break. Prices start at £23.95. Tel 01872 575000, www.ecohousenumbers.co.uk

