

## Blue trees raise a red flag

Konstantin Dimopoulos will transform trees at Brick Bay Sculpture Trail, drawing urgent attention to deforestation.

Brick Bay Sculpture Trail has announced its Temporary Artist Project for summer: *The Blue Trees* by Konstantin Dimopoulos. The artist is taking this project, which was first realised in Melbourne in 2006, then in Vancouver in 2011, around the world. The event, in which Dimopoulos will transform trees at Brick Bay into an electric ultramarine blue walkway using biodegradable pigment, is eagerly anticipated.

The vibrant *Blue Trees* call to attention the issue of deforestation and its impact on global warming. Every year about 800,000 square miles of forest are felled – trees which breathe for the planet, and without which temperatures are rising. Often overlooked in daily life, trees are enormously important to our survival.

The ultramarine pigment is biologically safe, water-based and classified as non-hazardous, harmless to humans and the natural world. Over time the colour naturally degrades and the trees return to their natural state.

In nature, colour is used as a defence mechanism, a means of protection, and to



Konstantin Dimopoulos, *The Blue Trees* – Port Moody, Canada. Photos: Clayton Perry (above); Manfred Kraus (left)

attract birds and insects. The artist explains: “*The Blue Trees* attempts to awaken a similar response from viewers. It’s within this context that the blue denotes sacredness, the reverential.”

Brick Bay Sculpture Trust is proud to sponsor the project, which aligns with its philosophy of honouring and working with the natural environment to create, enhance and celebrate life. Held every summer, the Temporary Artist Project is aimed at

broadening public understanding of sculpture, and adds to the wide range of works by leading New Zealand artists, which are available for sale at Brick Bay.

*The Blue Trees* is from 3 December 2011 to 30 April 2012, and Dimopoulos will give a talk on site in early December. Brick Bay Sculpture Trail, Arabella Lane, Warkworth, open daily 10am–5pm (last entry to trail is at 4pm). Visit [brickbaysculpture.co.nz](http://brickbaysculpture.co.nz) or phone 09 4254690 for more information.