

The Light Fantastic

It's not every day you see flamboyant light installations in a formal Victorian garden, or a field full of moons next to an aviary of exotic birds. But that's exactly what's on offer at Waddesdon Manor until 4 January - the perfect way to brighten up a winter day, writes *Venetia Hawkes*.

'Winter Light' features dramatic art works by Bruce Munro, with inspirations as diverse as the lamp-post of Narnia and the squawking parrots of Australia. The rose-garden has been transformed into a First World War centenary poppy-field of remembrance, replanted with softly illuminating seed-heads.

Munro's work has shown at the V&A, The

Eden Project and the Guggenheim Museum and he returns to Waddesdon Manor after the success of last year's exhibition there, praised by *The Independent* as "Discovery of the Year". As Henry Moore said, "Sculpture gains by finding a setting that suits its mood and when that happens there is gain for both the sculpture and setting."

Munro's playful 'Moon-Harvest' at Waddesdon transforms round hay-bales in their black plastic wrappers into a galaxy come to earth. A visual pun on 'Harvest Moon' after Munro pondered what a harvest of moons would look like. "I'm interested in looking at everyday objects to see if you can create a little bit of magic from them", he explained.

The glowing igloo-like 'Beacon' was originally constructed on a hill near the artist's Wiltshire home to raise money and awareness for breast cancer charity Cancerkin. Munro said, "I lost a dear friend very young to breast cancer. By illuminating the night sky for a brief moment, I hope to send the message 'you are not alone'."

'Winter Light' by Bruce Munro is at Waddesdon Manor till 4 January 2015, illuminating from 4pm, with a further installation inside the house - a projection of peacefully blanketing snow, the flakes made of the Morse code for various words for 'snow'.

See www.waddesdon.org.uk.



Photo by Ben A. Pruchnie/Getty Images