



Mirai is open by appointment only, and its address is undisclosed. A steady crop of bonsai enthusiasts and students from around the world flock to Oregon to learn about the art.

'Outside of Japan, bonsai is really on the decline,' explains Ryan. 'It's dying because it hasn't kept pace with the modernizing world and the mentality of younger people who are needed to carry the torch forward.'

Mirai's name was inspired by the Japanese word for 'future', and a huge part of

Ryan's passion is to protect the skills and teach them to the next generation. 'It refers not to the immediate future, but to a distant dream - a romantic thought, the future yet to come, ever out of reach, unobtainable and always evolving,' he says.

'These tiny trees are such a microcosm of what can exist in the relationship between humans and the wild - of human stewardship of the natural world,' explains Ryan. 'I think for many in today's world, it also answers that "call to the wild" - but in a way that you don't have to be so [distant] from the urban.'