



PRESS RELEASE

**YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE INTERNATIONAL:  
MAJOR NEW SCULPTURE FESTIVAL IN YORKSHIRE IN  
SUMMER 2019**

4 December 2018

*“Moving through the West Riding landscape with my father in his car, the hills were sculptures; the roads defined the form. There was the sensation of moving physically over the contours of fullnesses and concavities, through hollows and over peaks – feeling, touching, seeing through mind and hand and eye.”*

– Barbara Hepworth on Yorkshire, 1958

In Summer 2019, visitors will be able to explore the cultural offerings across Leeds, Wakefield and the surrounding countryside with a visit to Yorkshire Sculpture International (YSI), a free 100-day festival, running from 22 June until 29 September 2019. YSI will feature major new public commissions in Leeds and Wakefield, a programme of events and exhibitions across the four world-renowned galleries that form Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle – Henry Moore Institute, Leeds Art Gallery, The Hepworth Wakefield, and Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Yorkshire Sculpture International 2019 will be the UK’s largest celebration of sculpture, featuring more than 15 international artists.

Building upon the region’s rich history as the birthplace and home of sculptors including Barbara Hepworth, Damien Hirst and Henry Moore, Yorkshire Sculpture International will showcase the breadth and diversity of contemporary sculpture practice, while offering visitors the chance to see the landscape that inspired some of the greatest British sculptors. The festival will be accompanied by an extensive engagement programme working with schools, universities, communities and a talent development programme for artists working in the region today.

Major public commissions will include new works by Pakistani-American sculptor Huma Bhabha and Turkish artist Ayşe Erkmen in Leeds and Wakefield’s city centres. More commissions will be announced in the coming months.

Highlights of the programme will include an exhibition of new work by American artist Rashid Johnson at the Henry Moore Institute in Leeds, and new work by Japanese sculptor Nobuko Tsuchiya at Leeds Art Gallery. The Hepworth Wakefield, Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017, will stage a series of interventions by artists including German sculptor Wolfgang Laib and Jamaican-Canadian artist Tau Lewis. It will be the first time that all the spaces in the gallery will be taken over by a single exhibition; and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, also an Art Fund prize winner, will present an exhibition of work by David Smith (1906—1965), the preeminent Abstract-Expressionist sculptor.

Visitors to the area will also be able to explore additional cultural offerings across Yorkshire, including one of the largest permanent collections of David Hockney's work in the world at Salt's Mill at Saltaire, Rachel Whiteread's recently unveiled sculpture in the heart of Dalby Forest and Harewood House, one of the Treasure Houses of England. Next year will also see the reopening of Leeds Playhouse, after its first major redevelopment since opening 30 years ago. Long term plans include Opera North's major expansion, the Hyde Park Picture House's £2.4 million Heritage Lottery Funded redevelopment project and Leeds 2023, the city's international celebratory arts and culture festival, which will further brighten the spotlight on the city and region.

As the cultural prowess of Yorkshire continually grows, so does industry, evidenced by building plans for Channel 4's new headquarters in the centre of Leeds and a £12m expansion to the Leeds Bradford Airport.

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#### **Notes to Editors**

Yorkshire Sculpture International is a free festival of sculpture across Leeds and Wakefield running from Saturday 22 June until 29 September 2019.

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#### **About Yorkshire Sculpture International**

Yorkshire Sculpture International 2019 is curated by Andrew Bonacina (Chief Curator, The Hepworth Wakefield), Sarah Brown (Principal Keeper, Leeds Art Gallery), Clare Lilley (Director of Programme, Yorkshire Sculpture Park) and Laurence Sillars (Head of Programmes, Henry Moore Institute), Jane Bhoyroo (Producer, Yorkshire Sculpture International) and Meghan Goodeve (Engagement Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture International).

Yorkshire Sculpture International has raised more than £1.4 million, including a National Lottery funded Ambition for Excellence grant from Arts Council England and regional investment from Leeds 2023, Wakefield Council, Leeds Beckett University and the University of Leeds.

[yorkshire—sculpture.org](http://yorkshire—sculpture.org)

### **Henry Moore Institute**

The Henry Moore Institute welcomes everyone to experience, study and enjoy sculpture. Open seven days a week, the Institute is free to all. It is an international research centre located in the vibrant city of Leeds, where Henry Moore began his training as a sculptor. In its iconic building it hosts a year-round changing programme of historical, modern and contemporary exhibitions presenting sculpture from across the world. Each year it is home to over a hundred powerful discussions, bringing the brightest thinkers together to share ideas. The Institute is a hub for sculpture, connecting a global network of artists and scholars. As a part of the Henry Moore Foundation, an independent arts charity, it is the Institute's mission to bring people together to think about why sculpture matters.

[henry-moore.org/visit/henry-moore-institute](http://henry-moore.org/visit/henry-moore-institute)

### **Leeds Art Gallery**

Leeds Art Gallery offers dynamic temporary exhibitions and a world-class collection of modern British art. Founded in 1888, the gallery has designated collections of 19th and 20th century British art widely considered to be the best outside the national collections. The collection represents the development of English modernism shown through key works by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Jacob Epstein. Leeds Art Gallery, through a partnership with the Henry Moore Institute, has built one of the strongest collections of British sculpture in the country and confirmed Leeds's status as an international centre for the study and appreciation of sculpture. The Leeds Sculpture Collection comprises over 1,000 objects, 400 works on paper and the Henry Moore Institute Archive of over 270 collections of papers relating to sculptors.

[leeds.gov.uk/artgallery](http://leeds.gov.uk/artgallery)

### **The Hepworth Wakefield**

Designed by the acclaimed David Chipperfield Architects, The Hepworth Wakefield is set within Wakefield's historic waterfront, overlooking the River Calder. The gallery opened in May 2011 and has already welcomed over two million visitors and been awarded Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017. Named after Barbara Hepworth, one of the most important artists of the 20th century who was born and brought up in Wakefield, the gallery presents major exhibitions of the best international modern and contemporary art. It is also home to Wakefield's art collection – an impressive compendium of modern British and contemporary art – and has dedicated galleries exploring Hepworth's art and working process.

[hepworthwakefield.org](http://hepworthwakefield.org)

## Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2017. An independent charitable trust and registered museum (number 1067908) situated in the 500-acre, 18th-century Bretton Hall estate in West Yorkshire. Founded in 1977 by Executive Director Peter Murray CBE, YSP was the first sculpture park in the UK, and is the largest of its kind in Europe, providing the only place in Europe to see Barbara Hepworth's *The Family of Man* in its entirety alongside a significant collection of sculpture, including bronzes by Henry Moore, and site-specific works by Andy Goldsworthy, David Nash and James Turrell. YSP was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2014.

[ysp.org.uk](http://ysp.org.uk)

## Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

[artscouncil.org.uk](http://artscouncil.org.uk)

A festival produced by Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle:



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Yorkshire Sculpture Park

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