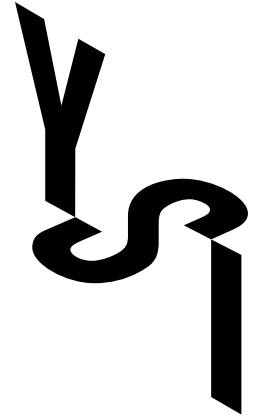


YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE INTERNATIONAL



EMBARGOED UNTIL 11AM, WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL

PRESS RELEASE

YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE INTERNATIONAL TO BRING MAJOR DAMIEN HIRST SCULPTURES TO WEST YORKSHIRE 03 April 2019

This summer Yorkshire Sculpture International (YSI) will present seven major sculptures by Damien Hirst as part of the inaugural edition of the festival taking place across Leeds and Wakefield from 22 June until 29 September 2019. Works will be shown outdoors in Leeds city centre, at Leeds Art Gallery and at Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

The Turner Prize-winning artist, who grew up in Leeds, will show *Hymn* (1999–2005) and *Anatomy of an Angel* (2008) outdoors in Leeds city centre and *Black Sheep with Golden Horns* (2009) at Leeds Art Gallery. *Charity* (2002–2003), *Myth* (2010), *The Hat Makes the Man* (2004–2007), and *The Virgin Mother* (2005–2006) will be shown at Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP).

Damien Hirst said: "I'm so happy to have my work in and around Leeds. When I was growing up in the city, the Leeds Art Gallery was my way into art. I never thought I'd ever be famous or considered important or anything like that, but seeing paintings by people like John Hoyland, Francis Bacon, Peter Blake and Eduardo Paolozzi – alongside the aquarium and natural history stuff in the City Museum – opened my mind to art. The things I saw made me so excited for what art could be. If people feel anything like that when they see my work, then that's the greatest thing you can hope for as an artist, and it's a double excitement for me that there'll be sculptures in the town as well as the gallery. The giant bronze sculptures at YSP are where they belong – they're just made for that setting. I used to hang out a lot on Ilkley Moor and Otley Chevin, and I will always love the Yorkshire landscape."

Jane Bhojroo, Producer of YSI, said: "To have Damien involved in the festival is fantastic and especially because of his love for Yorkshire. He is another world-class artist who will be part of this ambitious inaugural exhibition across four amazing galleries and two cities. One of the aims of YSI is to engage a mass audience through sculpture and Damien's works will play a key role in achieving this. YSI promises to be something special, memorable and game changing for Yorkshire's growing art scene."

The sculptures on display in the city centre will be positioned in well-known locations, making YSI a key part of the city experience in summer 2019. Standing at six metres high, the painted bronze sculpture *Hymn* is a monumental reinterpretation of an educational anatomical model intended for use by children, in which a cross-section reveals the internal organs of the male torso. *Anatomy of an Angel*, which will be on display in the Victoria Quarter arcade in the city centre, is a marble work which references classical sculpture. As in *Hymn*, *The Virgin Mother* and *Myth*, the vital organs beneath the skin are exposed. The display of the two works in Leeds city centre will be supported by Leeds Business Improvement District (LeedsBID) and Victoria Leeds.

Leeds Art Gallery will exhibit Hirst's *Black Sheep with Golden Horns* in the historic Arnold and Marjorie Ziff Gallery. Part of Hirst's iconic formaldehyde series, the work features a black sheep with golden horns, positioned within a steel-framed vitrine. This sculpture will be at the centre of the Ziff gallery display, in dialogue with the historic painting collection which covers the years 1888 to 1900.

At YSP, four sculptures will be placed in the newly revived 18th-century Deer Park and will be open to the public from 13 April. Hirst's ten-metre tall *The Virgin Mother* will stand against the backdrop of the Lower Lake, a powerful presence in the landscape. Referencing the stance of Degas's *Little Dancer of Fourteen Years* (c.1881) and considered a female counterpart to *Hymn*, the sculpture's cross-section reveals the foetus curled within the womb.

Charity, on display near the recently opened Weston building, is recognisable as based on Scope collection boxes which were commonly seen on British high streets between the 1960s and 1970s. A young girl wearing a calliper forlornly cradles a teddy bear and a donations box which reads 'please give generously'. The work questions historic and outdated ways of depicting disability and seeking charity.

Outside The Weston, *Myth* presents a white unicorn with half of its skin flayed to reveal vibrant red, pink and yellow musculature and tissues. Hirst often takes religious or mythical figures as his subjects, unpicking and disrupting their familiar narratives. Horses have been an artistic subject for millennia and, referencing this tradition, Hirst's unicorn stands high on a classical plinth. Like all works in this display, *Myth* makes a playful nod to art history.

Back towards Lower Lake, *The Hat Makes the Man* is based on a 1920 collage of the same name by Surrealist artist Max Ernst. Ernst's work is comprised of cut-out images of hats absurdly reassembled in stacks with intentionally phallic-like supports. It is thought to have been inspired by Sigmund Freud's book *The Joke and Its Relation to the Unconscious* (1905), in which Freud describes the hat as a symbol of repressed male desire. Hirst renders Ernst's work in three dimensions, using bronze casts of wooden pallets as supports and thereby introducing the idea of sculptural collage or assemblage. As with *The Virgin Mother*, Hirst's materials are hidden. In the former works, the bronze is painted to emulate plastic and with *The Hat* the casting precisely imitates painted wood. The artist thereby plays with the grandeur associated with bronze.

Hirst was born in 1965 in Bristol and grew up in Leeds, attending Allerton Grange High School. He went on to study at Leeds College of Art (then Jacob Kramer College) in the early 1980s, as Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore had done 60 years earlier. Hirst first came to public attention in 1988 when he conceived and curated the group exhibition 'Freeze', an exhibition of his own work and that of his fellow contemporaries at Goldsmiths' College. Hirst has become widely recognised as one of the most influential artists of his generation. He was awarded the Turner Prize in 1995 and his outstanding contribution to British art was acknowledged in a major solo retrospective exhibited at Tate Modern, London in 2012. He has studios in Devon, Gloucester and London. This presentation of sculptures marks a return to the city after Hirst's first solo exhibition in Yorkshire, the 2011 'Artist Rooms' at Leeds Art Gallery, which attracted 11,000 visitors in its first week.

YSI also features public commissions in outdoor spaces in Wakefield and Leeds, and exhibitions at each of the four partner venues – Henry Moore Institute, The Hepworth Wakefield, Leeds Art Gallery, and Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP).

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

Yorkshire Sculpture Park will open its Damien Hirst display, as part of YSI, on 13 April 2019

The press preview will be 19 – 20 June 2019, timings and further details to be announced.

ABOUT YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE INTERNATIONAL

Yorkshire Sculpture International – a free, 100-day festival taking place across Yorkshire from 22 June until 29 September 2019 – will feature new public commissions in Leeds and Wakefield and 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. The inaugural edition will be the UK's largest dedicated sculpture festival and builds on Yorkshire's rich history as the birthplace of pioneering sculptors, including Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, and as the home of this unique consortium of galleries and celebrated sculpture collections.

Reflecting a provocation by British artist Phyllida Barlow that *'sculpture is the most anthropological of the artforms'* the festival will respond to the idea that there is a basic human impulse to make and connect with objects. The programme will explore what it means to create sculpture today, around the

globe, and in Yorkshire. Showcasing the breadth and diversity of contemporary sculpture practice, the artists participating in YSI challenge what we understand as sculpture, making sense of the world and its political, environmental and social dimensions. The partner programme will feature 16 artists from 12 different countries.

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

THE 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 hosts 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

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

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 was 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. In summer 2019, The Hepworth Wakefield Garden will open alongside the gallery. Designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, it will feature sculptures and be one of the largest free public gardens in the UK.

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 and welcomes half a million visitors each year. An independent charitable trust it is 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 the world 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, Alfredo Jaar and James Turrell. YSP was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2014.

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, Arts Council England 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

A festival produced by Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle:



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