



YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE INTERNATIONAL:  
MAJOR NEW SCULPTURE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ENGAGEMENT  
PROGRAMME DETAILS

Yorkshire Sculpture International (YSI), a major new festival of sculpture taking place across Leeds and Wakefield from 22 June until 29 September 2019 has developed an extensive engagement programme working with schools, universities, communities and artists across the region. YSI, the UK's largest dedicated sculpture festival, features major public commissions in outdoor spaces across Leeds and Wakefield and exhibitions at each of the four partner venues – Henry Moore Institute, Leeds Art Gallery, The Hepworth Wakefield and Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

The engagement programme supports artistic talent development in the region and introduces new audiences to sculpture, giving people of all ages the opportunity to connect with sculpture and inspiring them to think about, talk about and make sculpture. At the core of YSI's educational initiatives is the concept of 'material literacy' and the championing of learning through a hands-on exploration of materials, their properties and processes. The engagement programme is supporting 16 artists from Yorkshire and is reaching over 300 students from primary and secondary schools across the region, over 200 art and design students from local colleges and over 1,500 university students.

Highlights of the programme include visionary educational initiatives developed to address the unique problem of teaching sculpture in schools because it requires expensive materials, tools and time, which leaves many teachers feeling too intimidated to teach the subject. YSI is addressing these issues by working closely with teachers and advocating for sculpture education for students from age five through to university. Partnerships are supporting teachers in primary and secondary schools and bringing major sculptures by well-known artists including Barbara Hepworth directly into schools for students to experience.

According to recent studies by Cultural Learning Alliance looking at art education since 2010, Arts GCSE entries have fallen by 35%, the number of hours arts

subjects are taught in secondary schools has fallen by 21% and the number of arts teachers has fallen by 20%. Art & Design is being taken out of the curriculum from KS1 to A level, spanning students aged six to 18 years old. Students are increasingly losing a physical relationship to their environment and are lacking in creative motor skills, particularly as classrooms become more and more digital.

Jane Bhoyroo, Producer of Yorkshire Sculpture International said:

*“Yorkshire is one of the best places in the UK to see and experience sculpture, with a rich history of producing world-renowned sculptors from Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore to Damien Hirst and Martin Creed. The area has a strong legacy of educating and inspiring sculptors, and we are committed to nurturing creative talent here in Yorkshire. Our engagement programme is bringing together artists with schools, communities and students to investigate the unique experience of learning from sculpture.”*

Meghan Goodeve, Engagement Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture International said:

*“Yorkshire Sculpture International isn’t just bringing some of the most interesting artists from across the world to Yorkshire, it is also creating the conditions for the next generation of internationally renowned artists to come from here. In collaboration with Leeds City College and Wakefield College, we have re-introduced a sculpture module, which will mean that 200 young people are experiencing sculpture-making in their curriculum. Taking trips to our galleries and making sculpture using low-cost and foraged materials, students are learning easy and accessible ways to make in three dimensions. Fundamentally, we are asking the question ‘where will the next Henry Moore or Barbara Hepworth come from?’”*

In partnership with Freelands Foundation, five secondary school teachers from Leeds and five from Wakefield are taking part in a year-long programme to explore how sculpture can be taught in the classroom. These teachers are examining contemporary approaches to sculpture-making with artists, enabling them to overcome barriers to teaching sculpture in the school curriculum. At the same time, Freelands Foundation has developed a programme that mirrors this process with ten teachers in London. Both cohorts will meet throughout the academic year, developing answers to the question ‘how to use sculpture in the classroom today?’

YSI has partnered with Art UK to take key works from the partner galleries’ sculpture collections and the Arts Council Collection directly into primary and secondary schools in the area. Each sculpture is chosen by a student vote and spends a day on display in the school, with activities and lessons responding to the sculpture for students aged five to 16. These schools are paired with an artist based in Yorkshire to support the students in creating their own sculptures. This unique experience gives students the rare and special opportunity to connect with great works of art and artists in a new environment.

200 Art & Design students aged 16 to 18 from Leeds City College and Wakefield College are invited to respond creatively to Ayşe Erkmen's and Huma Bhabha's sculpture commissions in Leeds and Wakefield. The students are taking part in a number of artist workshops and visits to the partner galleries, as well as creating their own proposals for sculpture in the public realm.

YSI is also working closely with university partners Leeds Beckett University and The University of Leeds to encourage sculpture in higher education and support talent development in the region. Leeds Beckett University has hosted a series of talks by YSI artists including Nobuko Tsuchiya and Ayşe Erkmen, and will produce a sculpture symposium on 20 September and two artist books. The University of Leeds is hosting a series of public seminars during the festival including YSI artist Huma Bhabha that explores the role of sculpture in the public realm, and further events that look at the role of technology in sculpture. Students from The University of Leeds are currently undertaking work placements with YSI.

With support from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, YSI is working with local communities in Leeds and Wakefield. Taking a lead from the international line-up of artists in the artistic programme, YSI's work with local people celebrates the diversity of Yorkshire, working with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers based in the region. Community partners include Urban House, a grassroots support group for asylum seekers and Path, a career development charity. Five artists are working alongside YSI to coordinate visits to the four partner galleries and leading sculpture-making workshops that explore issues concerning identity, urban and natural environments and social engagement.

Tarek Atoui is collaborating with networks of musicians based in Yorkshire and international instrument makers to create a series of performances exploring instrument making, the material properties of sound and its connection to the body and the audience. Opening weekend events in Leeds and Wakefield will bring together the community groups YSI is working with to welcome the public commissions programme and showcase the many connections that YSI has fostered across the region.

In September last year, a panel of judges including sculptor Anthea Hamilton selected five sculptors to be YSI Associate Artists who each received grants of £7,500. Jill McKnight (b. 1990, lives in Leeds) is paired with Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), Natalie Finnemore (b. 1988, lives in Sheffield) is paired with Leeds Art Gallery, Rosanne Robertson (b. 1984, lives in Hebden Bridge) is paired with The Hepworth Wakefield, Ryoko Akama (b. 1976, lives in Huddersfield) is paired with Henry Moore Institute and Rhian Cooke (b. 1995, lives in Leeds) is paired with Yorkshire Sculpture International's curatorial team. These five artists received mentoring throughout the period leading up to YSI, and their work is on display at Yorkshire Sculpture Park for the first two weeks of the festival.

ENDS

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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

For more information on the engagement programme and associate artists, visit: [yorkshire-sculpture.org/engagement-programme/](http://yorkshire-sculpture.org/engagement-programme/)

The Ernest Cook Trust has also provided a grant to support the YSI Engagement programme.

YSI Engagement programme artists:

### Engagement artists: Communities programme

Emii Alrai  
Bijan Amini-Alavijeh  
Rachael Kidd  
RL Wilson  
Dawn Woolley

### Engagement artists: Schools programme

Emily Binks  
Bethan Hughes  
Rufus Newell and Zoe Spowage  
Alice Withers  
Zara Worth

### YSI PhD Researcher / Artist:

Julia McKinlay

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## **About Yorkshire Sculpture International**

Yorkshire Sculpture International – a free, 100-day festival taking place across Yorkshire from 22 June until 29 September 2019 – features 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. The inaugural edition is the UK's largest dedicated sculpture festival and builds upon 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 the provocation chosen by British artist Phyllida Barlow that '*sculpture is the most anthropological of the artforms*' the festival responds to the idea that there is a basic human impulse to make and connect with objects. The programme explores 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 features 18 artists from 13 different countries.

Yorkshire Sculpture International 2019 is curated by Andrew Bonacina (Chief Curator, The Hepworth Wakefield), Emily Riddle (Assistant Curator, The Hepworth Wakefield), Sarah Brown (Principal Keeper, Leeds Art Gallery), Clare Lilley (Director of Programme, Yorkshire Sculpture Park) and Laurence Sillars (Head of the Henry Moore Institute), Jane Bhooyroo (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 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](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 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. This summer, 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](http://hepworthwakefield.org)

### **Yorkshire Sculpture Park**

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture. It is an independent charitable trust and registered museum (number 1067908) situated in the 500-acre, 18th-century Bretton 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.

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

### **Freelands Foundation**

The Freelands Foundation's mission is to support artists and cultural institutions, to broaden audiences for the visual arts and to enable all young people to engage actively with the creation and enjoyment of art. Art and culture afford immense social and economic benefits to our society. Their goal is to tackle the critical

issues that are limiting our society's access to these benefits; from the inequality of access to art education in schools, to the lack of sufficient support for female and emerging artists. Freelands Foundation aims to provoke meaningful, positive change within the visual arts sector via strategic, high-impact programmes, partnerships and activities.

[freelandsfoundation.co.uk](http://freelandsfoundation.co.uk)

In partnership with YSI, participating schools in Leeds are Cockburn School, Leeds City College, Roundhay School, Sherburn High School and Springwell Academy. Schools in Wakefield are Ackworth School, Castleford Academy, Cathedral Academy, new College Pontefract and Wakefield College. The London-based schools participating are Acland Burghley School, Addey & Stanhope School, Brampton Manor Academy, Kingsdale Foundation School, Lady Margaret School, Raynes Park High School, The St Marylebone School, Thomas Tallis School, Three Rivers Academy and West London Free School.

### **Art UK**

Art UK is a cultural education charity that enables global audiences to learn about the UK's national art collection. Art UK's website is the showcase for art in every UK public collection and is a collaboration between over 3,250 British institutions. The art on Art UK is for everyone – for enjoyment, learning and research. These artworks are in museums, universities, town halls, hospitals and other civic buildings across the country. As 80% of this art is not on public view, Art UK allows visitors to see art that is not readily able to visit. Art UK is free for all to enjoy.

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

In partnership with Art UK, participating schools in Leeds are Abbey Grange Academy, Blackgates Primary School and John Jamieson School. Wakefield schools are Crofton Academy and Minsthorpe Community College.

### **Paul Hamlyn Foundation**

Paul Hamlyn Foundation was established by Paul Hamlyn in 1987. Upon his death in 2001, he left most of his estate to the Foundation, creating one of the largest independent grant-making foundations in the UK. Their mission is to help people overcome disadvantage and lack of opportunity, so that they can realise their potential and enjoy fulfilling and creative lives. The Foundation has a particular interest in supporting young people and a strong belief in the importance of the arts.

[phf.org.uk](http://phf.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. They 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, they 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)

### **University of Leeds**

The University of Leeds is one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK, with more than 38,000 students from more than 150 different countries, and a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities. The University plays a significant role in the Turing, Rosalind Franklin and Royce Institutes. We are a top ten university for research and impact power in the UK, according to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, and are in the top 100 of the QS World University Rankings 2019.

The University was awarded a Gold rating by the Government's Teaching Excellence Framework in 2017, recognising its 'consistently outstanding' teaching and learning provision. Twenty-six of our academics have been awarded National Teaching Fellowships – more than any other institution in England, Northern Ireland and Wales – reflecting the excellence of our teaching.

[leeds.ac.uk/](http://leeds.ac.uk/)

### **Wakefield College**

Wakefield College is the largest provider of education and training in the Wakefield District with courses to suit all levels and abilities. With a history spanning over 150 years, the College has helped transform the lives of thousands of learners.

Wakefield College offers an extensive range of courses for school leavers including a choice of vocational courses, apprenticeships and over 20 A Levels. For those interested in university-level provision, the College's dedicated University Centre offers over 40 degree level courses in partnership with leading professional bodies and universities. Additionally, the College offers a variety of part-time courses and apprenticeships for adults interested in learning for leisure and pleasure or to help boost their career aspirations. The College has invested millions in new facilities over recent years and was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in 2019.

[wakefield.ac.uk/](http://wakefield.ac.uk/)

### **Leeds City College**

Leeds City College is one of the largest further education institutions in the UK, with over 20,000 students. The college is part of Luminare Education Group, which consists of Leeds City College, Keighley College, Harrogate College, Leeds College of Music and the White Rose Academies Trust.

The college operates out of three main campuses; Printworks, Park Lane and Technology, with smaller provisions in communities across the city. A further campus, located in the cultural quarter of the city, is set to open in September 2019. Leeds City College's vision is to be a leader in vocational and academic



education, creating learning environments where every student can achieve their full potential.

[leedscitycollege.ac.uk](http://leedscitycollege.ac.uk)

A festival produced by Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle:



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