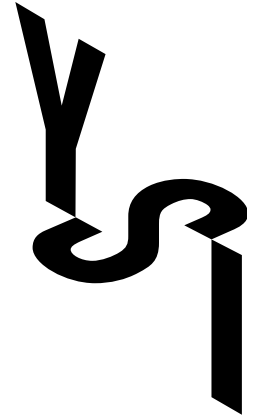


YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE INTERNATIONAL



PRESS RELEASE

MORE THAN A MILLION PEOPLE SAW YORKSHIRE'S FIRST SCULPTURE FESTIVAL

- **Sculptures by Damien Hirst to stay in Leeds and Wakefield**
- **Programme reaches more than 30,000 young people**
- **Over 47,000 participated in sculpture events over the Year of Sculpture**
- **Talks under way to develop the next edition**

More than 1.4 million people saw the first ever Yorkshire Sculpture International (YSI) festival across Leeds and Wakefield this summer.

Showing outdoor sculptures by Damien Hirst in Leeds and at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, commissioning New York-based artist Huma Bhabha to create a new work for Wakefield city centre and presenting work by internationally renowned artists at the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds Art Gallery, The Hepworth Wakefield and Yorkshire Sculpture Park all contributed towards the free event's ground-breaking success.

The audience figure includes people who visited a gallery or saw one of the sculptures in the two city centres.

YSI's extensive engagement programme, the Year of Sculpture, started in 2018 and featured group visits, artist-led workshops and took sculpture into schools, reaching over 19,000 students across the two cities from primary schools, secondary schools and further education colleges, more than 2,900 university students and over 11,000 family groups.

In total, around 47,000 people took part in sculpture-related events and 7,000 people from community groups across Yorkshire became involved in the 100 day festival. YSI worked with 39 artists from Yorkshire to deliver sculpture talks, workshops and projects across the region. The programme also ran an Associate Artist scheme, enabling five artists from Yorkshire to create new work and aid their professional development.

YSI has also announced that four sculptures by Damien Hirst, who grew up in Leeds and studied at Leeds College of Art, will remain at Yorkshire Sculpture Park until 2022 and *Black Sheep with Golden Horns* (2009) will be on display at Leeds Art Gallery until June 2020.

Damien Hirst said: "It's been great having my work there for the festival, but I'm really pleased the sculptures are going to have a while longer at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. I've loved seeing the response to them in that setting and it blew me away when I first saw them there. Also the sheep in Leeds Art Gallery, which was an important place to me when I was growing up - I'm so pleased it'll be there for a few years now."

Ayşe Erkmen's site-specific sculpture for Leeds Art Gallery's Central Court, *three of four* (2019) will remain on display until September 2020. Huma Bhabha's *Receiver* (2019), installed outside County Hall in the centre of Wakefield for the duration of the festival, is now at Yorkshire Sculpture Park

It is hoped the festival will become a regularly occurring event with partners already discussing long-term plans for future sculpture events in Leeds and Wakefield as well as playing a key part in Leeds 2023 and its international year of culture.

Jane Bhojroo, Producer of YSI, said: "We have been blown away by the reaction to the first festival. All the partners have been incredible and worked together to create something special. We are delighted that so many people experienced sculpture over the summer. Yorkshire Sculpture International has made a real statement that West Yorkshire is the home of sculpture in the UK."

The event's commissions and exhibitions featured 18 artists from 13 different countries as organisers joined forces with key partners including major funders, Arts Council England, along with Leeds 2023, Wakefield Council, Leeds Beckett University and the University of Leeds.

Sir Nicholas Serota, Arts Council England Chair, said: "Yorkshire Sculpture International has been an outstanding success, presenting both internationally recognised and emerging sculptors across Leeds and Wakefield. It's particularly rewarding to support four of the UK's leading art institutions, so that they can work together to build on the rich history of sculpture in West Yorkshire. The International provided an exceptional platform for five emerging Yorkshire artists and realised an innovative engagement programme with young people, teachers and communities in these cities. I look forward to future editions of Yorkshire Sculpture International."

Kully Thiarai, Creative Director of Leeds 2023, said: "Hosting the first Yorkshire Sculpture International has shown what can be done on the national and even international stage, demonstrating our city's ability to showcase the work of renowned, international artists in a completely new, inventive and accessible way. Bringing culture to life for the people and communities of Leeds is at the absolute core of our ambitions for Leeds 2023, and it's clear that the public have an appetite to participate in, engage with and support ambitious ideas and artistic endeavours. We look forward to working with YSI in our evolving vision for what will be a landmark year for the arts in the city."

Councillor Jacquie Speight, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport in Wakefield, said: “We are proud to have supported the first ever Yorkshire Sculpture International. We were also delighted to host *Receiver* by the New York-based artist Huma Bhabha and it’s great to see the sculpture will now be displayed at Yorkshire Sculpture Park for the forthcoming year. We’re already looking forward to working with everyone across Wakefield and Leeds to support the next festival in 2023 and truly put Wakefield on the map as a global destination for world-class sculpture.”

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Yorkshire Sculpture International was a free festival of sculpture across Leeds and Wakefield. The inaugural edition took place from Saturday 22 June until Sunday 29 September 2019.

The full list of works that have been extended as part of the event’s legacy are Ayşe Erkmen’s site-specific sculpture for Leeds Art Gallery’s Central Court, *three of four* (2019) which will remain on display until September 2020. Huma Bhabha’s *Receiver* (2019), installed outside County Hall in the centre of Wakefield for the duration of the festival, is now on display at Yorkshire Sculpture Park *Black Sheep with Golden Horns* (2009) by Damien Hirst will stay on view at Leeds Art Gallery until June 2020, and *Charity* (2002–2003), *Myth* (2010), *The Hat Makes the Man* (2004–2007), and *The Virgin Mother* (2005–2006) by Hirst will stay on view at Yorkshire Sculpture Park until 2022.

The event’s visitor target was 1 million people during the event. For more information on YSI, please visit yorkshire-sculpture.org.

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About Yorkshire Sculpture International

Yorkshire Sculpture International – a free, 100-day festival across Yorkshire – featured 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 was 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 responded to the idea that there is a basic human impulse to make and connect with objects. The programme explored 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 challenged

what we understand as sculpture, making sense of the world and its political, environmental and social dimensions. The partner programme featured 18 artists from 13 different countries.

Yorkshire Sculpture International 2019 was 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), Laurence Sillars (Head of Henry Moore Institute), Jane Bhoyroo (Producer, Yorkshire Sculpture International) and Meghan Goodeve (Engagement Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture International).

Yorkshire Sculpture International raised more than £1.5 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

Henry Moore Institute

The Henry Moore Institute welcomes everyone to experience, study and enjoy sculpture. An international research centre located in the vibrant city of Leeds, where Henry Moore began his training as a sculptor, the Institute hosts a year-round changing programme of historical, modern and contemporary exhibitions presenting sculpture from across the world. As a hub for sculpture, the Institute connects a global network of artists and scholars. The Institute is part of the Henry Moore Foundation, an independent arts charity whose mission is to bring people together to think about why sculpture matters. Free to all and open seven days a week. henry-moore.org/hmi

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. museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/art-gallery

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 opened alongside the gallery. Designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, it features sculptures and is 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. It is 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.

yvsp.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

A festival produced by Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle:



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