



Norman Ackroyd: The Furthest Lands Media Release



SOLO EXHIBITION BY RENOWNED ARTIST AND PRINTMAKER NORMAN ACKROYD AT YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

17 November 2018–24 February 2019

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) presents an exhibition of work by Norman Ackroyd CBE, RA, one of Britain's foremost landscape artists and contemporary printmakers working today. *The Furthest Lands* showcases a vast range of work that explores the western edges of the British Isles and runs at YSP, near Wakefield, from 17 November 2018 to 24 February 2019.

Starting in the extreme north of the Shetland Islands, *The Furthest Lands* journeys south over 950 miles to the far south-west point of Ireland, through a display of the artist's intricate aquatint etchings and a small collection of watercolours. Ackroyd's characteristic muted tones add depth and energy to both familiar and faraway landscapes, including works such as *Ailsa Craig, Firth of Clyde* (1986), *Treshnish Islands, Hebrides* (2007) and *Off Hermaness, Shetland* (2018).

Ackroyd made his first etching over 60 years ago at Leeds College of Art (now named Leeds Arts University). Created in the same period, *Storm Over Gildersome* (1959) –

*Stac an Armin –
Evening, 2010.*
Courtesy the artist



an atmospheric etching on steel which depicts the skyline of the Yorkshire village – features within the exhibition and has never been shown before.

Many of Ackroyd's early etchings were created in the Yorkshire landscape. Extending this documentation, Ackroyd has produced a new limited-edition etching, derived from YSP's unique landscape, following a visit to the Park earlier in the year. *Bretton Hall* (2018) features the iconic mansion house and its surrounding woodland, reflected in Lower Lake. The exhibition is also accompanied by a full-colour catalogue.

Ackroyd will host a series of events at YSP to coincide with *The Furthest Lands*, including an *Etching Demonstration*, using sugar lift or soft ground etching, on 16 February 2019, in which he will show the process behind creating an aquatint print, from start to finish, working from his plein air watercolour drawing books through to a final print. The following day, Ackroyd will be in conversation with long-term friend John Bell from Zillah Bell Gallery, Thirsk.

Born in Leeds in 1938, Ackroyd attended Leeds College of Art and the Royal College of Art in the 1960s. For more than 60 years he has travelled all over the UK documenting the interrelationship of landscape and its human inhabitants throughout history. He gave etching demonstrations across America in the 1970s and '80s and was appointed Professor of Etching at Bloomington, Indiana and Richmond, Virginia. Ackroyd's work is held in many public collections including British Museum, London; Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington DC; National Gallery of Scotland; Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; and Tate Gallery, London.

Ackroyd is an advocate for the importance of art education – an ethos strongly supported by YSP, which was born out of Bretton Hall College in 1977, where Executive and Founding Director, Peter Murray worked. Ackroyd was one of over 100 artists to sign a recent open letter to The Guardian expressing concern over the exclusion of arts and creative subjects from the new English Baccalaureate, or EBacc, for secondary school children.

Storm Over
Gildersome, 1959.
Courtesy the artist

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Norman Ackroyd CBE, RA studied at Leeds College of Art from 1956 to 1961, and subsequently at the Royal College of Art, London from 1961 to 1964. He has had many solo exhibitions, both in Britain and internationally, including Anderson O'Day; Aitken Dott, Edinburgh; Jersey Arts Centre, Channel Islands and the Compass Gallery, Glasgow. Solo shows abroad include the National Museum of Art, Santiago, Chile; Jan Turner, Los Angeles; Dolan/Maxwell Gallery, Philadelphia and the Mickleson Gallery, Washington DC. Ackroyd has also received several public mural commissions, produced in etched stainless steel or bronze. Recent commissions include Lloyds Bank, Freshfields, and Lazards Bank, Stratton Street, London; British Airways, Birmingham Airport; Tetrapack, Stockley Park, Heathrow; and a bronze mural for the Main Hall of the British Embassy, Moscow. He was elected a Royal Academician in 1991 and was made Senior Fellow, Royal College of Art in 2000; he was awarded a CBE for Services to Engraving and printing in 2007. Ackroyd lives and works in London. In May 2018, he was one of six artists – along with Tracey Emin CBE, Grayson Perry CBE, Fiona Rae, Barbara Rae CBE and Yinka Shonibare MBE – to create artwork for a special set of stamps which celebrates the milestone 250th anniversary of the Royal Academy of Arts.

ABOUT 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, 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 mounts a world-class, year-round temporary exhibitions programme including some of the world's leading artists across five indoor galleries and the open air. Recent highlights include exhibitions by Giuseppe Penone, Chiharu Shiota, Alfredo Jaar, Tony Cragg, Not Vital, KAWS, Bill Viola, Anthony Caro, Fiona Banner, Ai Weiwei, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Amar Kanwar, Yinka Shonibare MBE, Joan Miró and Jaume Plensa. More than 80 works on display across the estate include major sculptures by Phyllida Barlow, Katrina Palmer, Ai Weiwei, Roger Hiorns, Sol LeWitt, Joan Miró and Dennis Oppenheim.

YSP's driving purpose for 40 years has been to encourage, nurture and sustain interest in and debate around contemporary art and sculpture, especially with those not typically familiar with art participation. It enables open access to art, situations and ideas, and continues to re-evaluate and expand the approach to considering art's role and relevance in society. Supporting 45,000 people each year through YSP's learning programme, this innovative work develops ability, confidence and life aspiration in participants.

YSP's core work is made possible by investment from Arts Council England, Wakefield Council, Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation and Sakurako and William Fisher through the Sakana Foundation. YSP was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2014.

SOCIAL MEDIA

#YSP / #NormanAckroyd

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