

YSP

Press Release

William Darrell: Restless Bulbs and Rotting Goodness Selfridges Art Block X Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Selfridges London, Duke Street Entrance
Until September 2022



William Darrell, *Restless Bulbs and Rotting Goodness*, 2021
Photo: Andrew Meredith

Grounded in place, peering out at what we can. The Earth pulses with emerging vegetation, our windows become our personal wildlife documentaries. Blossom explodes along branches and bulbs shoot leaves and flowers, all with seemingly more vigour than we have while stuck in our homes. Our dormant bodies will have to be patient longer but there is only so long that screens can distract us from our natural need for real life. So, we nurture optimistic plans for our emergence. All the while nature envelopes previously unwelcome territory, an accidental healing process brought on by our absence. Now the time is near... or is it... yes, it is... maybe... as excitement builds, we can barely be contained. Hairs raised, eyes out on stalks, tasting the air. William Darrell, Spring 2021

We are delighted to highlight the latest collaboration with Selfridges, London, as part of the series of Art Block projects co-curated by Helen Pheby, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) Head of Curatorial Programme. William Darrell was the first recipient of the YSP/RCA Graduate Award initiative in 2015 and this project is his most significant commission to date. Illustrative of Darrell's mesmerising and highly innovative kinetic sculpture, the Art Block is now inhabited by seemingly ever-growing blooms alongside an undulating worm – representing the life force beneath our feet and of the planet itself – a hopeful testament to its resilience. Fabricated with environmentally-friendly materials and processes, the main installation is complemented by a sculptural window display featuring fungus and moving bees.

Art Block is Selfridges' permanent destination dedicated to the exhibition of contemporary sculpture. Designed in collaboration with David Chipperfield as part of the transformation of the Accessories Hall on Duke Street, it was launched in 2018 in collaboration with YSP. The latest – and fifth – artist to exhibit, William Darrell's practice is informed by biology, evolution and the laws of physics. The new work is a mind-bending kinetic piece, crafted from recycled plastic, that is a botanical metaphor, comparing perennial plant life in its dormant state with the lockdown experience. The colourful and kinetic flower-like sculptures mounted on real soil, are symbolic of humans resurfacing from lockdown, impacted by the experience yet springing back to life.

Helen Pheby says "it's always a joy to collaborate with Selfridges, whose commitment to supporting artists and sharing their work with as many people as possible aligns fundamentally with YSP's core mission."



William Darrell, *Restless Bulbs and Rotting Goodness*, 2021
3D printed PLA (plant based plastic), motors, rubber, aluminium, hessian, plywood, soil, tree trunk, flowers, moss, bees and butterflies. Photo courtesy of the artist

The project is part of Super Culture – Selfridges' ambitious autumn 2021 arts programme, led by a series of cultural experiences at its London store and at [Selfridges.com/superculture](https://www.selfridges.com/superculture). "Culture and creativity are at the heart of Selfridges' DNA. It's what helps drive us forward and infuses everything we do. The importance of culture and the richness it brings to our lives has never been so vital. With this in mind, we're delighted to launch Super Culture - a new programme of events, films, installations and experiences, celebrating the most exciting ideas in the arts, both online and in store." says Hannah Emslie, Selfridges Creative Director of the London store's new initiative.

-ENDS-

Notes for Editors

Press enquiries

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Download images at ysp.org.uk/media

Listings information

William Darrell: Restless Bulbs and Rotting Goodness

Art Block at Selfridges, 400 Oxford Street (Duke Street Entrance), London W1A 1AB / free entry, on view until September 2022

Social Media

#YSP #Selfridges #superculture #WilliamDarrell

Twitter: @YSPsculpture @Selfridges

Instagram: @YSPsculpture @theofficialselfridges @WilliamDarrell

About William Darrell

William Darrell (b. 1989) is a London-based artist. He received his MA from the Royal College of Art in 2015 and his BA from Edinburgh College of Art in 2012. His work has received multiple awards including the Sir William Gillies Bequest award from the Royal Scottish Academy and the Moving Minds award from Sustain RCA. He has also been awarded multiple residencies taking him to Florence, Shetland and Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

About Selfridges and the Arts

Selfridges has had a long-standing commitment to supporting the arts since its first store opened in 1909 to the most creative window scheme London had ever seen - an homage to works by French painters Fragonard and Watteau. In the past 15 years alone, Selfridges has given its patronage to an ever-increasing number of initiatives focusing on emerging artists in particular; and supporting and engaging with the creative communities in the cities its stores call home in London, Birmingham and Manchester. Selfridges has on-going relationships with IKON, The Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Frieze, The Whitworth, Manchester International Festival and Bold Tendencies. It has commissioned site-specific work to or has exhibited work by artists as diverse as Yayoi Kusama, Fernando Botero, Tracey Emin, Marc Quinn, Sam Taylor Wood, Spencer Tunick, Banksy, Brian Eno, Conrad Shawcross, David LaChapelle and Joana Vasconcelos, Matthew Darbyshire, Yinka Ilori, Jonathan Scofield, Osman Yousefzada among many others.

The Art Block is a marble and steel monolith designed by David Chipperfield as part of his commission to create Selfridges' Accessories Hall, the world's largest destination for luxury handbags and accessories. The Art Block, - situated right in the middle of the Accessories Hall, has been designed to showcase large pieces of contemporary art that can weigh up to 3.5 tonnes and measure well over 4 metres in height, thanks to the very high ceilings within the space. The Art Block presents two new residencies every year (of six months each), curated by Helen Pheby of YSP.

About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is one of the finest places in Europe to experience modern and contemporary sculpture in the open air. We host work by some of the world's most well-known artists from Yorkshire-born Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Damien Hirst to Phyllida Barlow, Huma Bhabha, Gavin Turk, Ai Weiwei and many other major international and emerging artists across 500 acres of 18th century-designed landscape and six galleries. YSP welcomes around 500,000 visitors every year to enjoy and experience art, the landscape and our heritage and each year 40,000 people have contact with our learning programmes. Founded in 1977, YSP is an independent charitable trust and registered museum.

Creative Case for Diversity

Yorkshire Sculpture Park was founded in 1977 to enable fairer cultural access and opportunity and we are committed to being part of change towards a fairer world. We do not tolerate discrimination in any form and are proactive in our programme, policies and behaviours to address inequalities locally, nationally and internationally. We recognise that economic, social and cultural disadvantage is complex and intersectional and shape our activity accordingly. Diversity and equality are crucial to the arts because they release the true potential of our nation's artistic talent – from every background. At YSP, we support Arts Council England's mission – great art and culture for everyone. We share ACE's commitment to promote and embed diversity in our workforce and cultural programme. This is called the 'Creative Case for Diversity'.



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