



Press Release

Peter Murray, Founding and Executive Director of Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), has been awarded a knighthood by Her Majesty The Queen in the New Year 2021 Honours List in recognition of his services to the arts.

The Trustees and staff of YSP are delighted to see Peter's work, perseverance and contribution to culture publicly recognised, in advance of his retirement later this year.

Peter's commitment to YSP and to the staff and artists he has worked with over the years has shown a rare dedication to enabling access to the arts, always seeking ways to break down barriers and engage people in culture.



His fundamental belief that education and learning should be pivotal to all other work continues. As well as enabling 500,000 visitors a year to see world-class exhibitions and works sited in a 500 acre historic landscape, YSP welcomes over 40,000 people to participate in learning opportunities and has inspired at least two generations to fulfil their creative potential.

Peter's vision and determination which led to the evolution of this significant cultural centre have remained constant since its inception in 1977. Peter has led the organisation for over four decades, starting with £1,000 and no employees, and now employs over 200 people, generating c£11.5m for the regional economy.

Peter Clegg, Chair of YSP Trustees says:

"Through a combination of vision, tenacity and exemplary leadership Peter has created one of the country's most cherished cultural institutions with a truly global reputation. We are delighted that his unique achievement has been recognised in this way."

Peter Murray says:

"It is a great honour for me and YSP. I think the award acknowledges the importance of the organisation to the wider public and the contribution it continues to make to arts and culture, and the economy."

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Press enquiries

Jenny McVean, Sutton: jenny@suttoncomms.com

Kirsty Young, YSP comms@yvsp.org.uk

Download images at ysp.org.uk/media

Listings information

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield WF4 4LG

Near Wakefield and Barnsley – M1 Junction 38

+44 (0)1924 832631 | ysp.org.uk | @YSPsculpture

Open seven days a week, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Booking essential, via ysp.org.uk

Social media

Instagram and Twitter: @YSPsculpture

Facebook: @YorkshireSculpturePark

#ArtWithoutWalls

About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture. Welcoming around 500,000 visitors each year pre-pandemic, YSP is an independent charitable trust and registered museum situated in the 500-acre, 18th-century Bretton Hall estate in West Yorkshire.

Founded in 1977 by Executive Director Peter Murray, YSP is the largest sculpture park of its kind in Europe. It is the only place in Europe to see Barbara Hepworth's recently restored *The Family of Man* in its entirety, alongside a significant collection of sculpture, including bronzes by Henry Moore, important pieces by Phyllida Barlow, Roger Hiorns and Ai Weiwei, and site-related works by Katrina Palmer, Andy Goldsworthy, David Nash, Sean Scully and James Turrell.

YSP mounts a year-round temporary exhibitions programme including some of the world's leading artists across six indoor galleries and the open air. Recent highlights include exhibitions by Fiona Banner, Anthony Caro, Tony Cragg, Amar Kanwar, KAWS, Joan Miró, Henry Moore, Annie Morris, Giuseppe Penone, Jaume Plensa, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Sean Scully, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Chiharu Shiota, David Smith and Bill Viola.

Across its 45-year history, YSP has worked with over 1,000 artists from more than 40 countries, on varied projects from short-term residencies to major surveys. YSP supports artists at vital stages in their careers and is rare in having the accommodation, workshops and expertise to enable open-ended and risk-taking practice, giving artists space, time and support to think and to develop new ideas.

Over this time, YSP has sought to ignite, nurture and sustain interest in and debate around contemporary art and sculpture, especially with those for whom art participation is not habitual or familiar. 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 40,000 people each year pre-pandemic 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, the 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.

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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