



## Press Release

### Clare Lilley appointed as new Director of Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is delighted to announce that Clare Lilley has been appointed to take up the role of Director in March 2022, as Founding Director Sir Peter Murray CBE retires.

The Trustees appointed Saxton Bamfylde, a global executive search company, who conducted an international search for the new Director. After a series of intensive interviews with an impressive shortlist of candidates Trustees, supported by Arts Council England, were extremely pleased to appoint Clare.

Over the years Clare has made an enormous contribution to the growth of YSP as it has developed into the leading international cultural organisation it is today. As Director of Programme, she has taken responsibility for temporary exhibitions and projects, the collection, learning and engagement at YSP which in 2014 was named the UK Art Fund Museum of the Year. Clare has been integral to a number of YSP's buildings, including The Weston designed by Feilden Fowles, which in 2019 was shortlisted for the eminent RIBA Stirling Prize.

Combining art historical and contemporary knowledge, together with a passion for art outdoors and for enabling access to art for all people, Clare has expertise in developing and siting sculpture in the public realm. Her curated work with artists includes Ai Weiwei, Fiona Banner, Damien Hirst, Amar Kanwar, KAWS, Kimsooja, Alfredo Jaar, Shirin Neshat, Giuseppe Penone, Sean Scully, Yinka Shonibare CBE, David Smith, James Turrell, Joana Vasconcelos and Bill Viola. Her current curatorial project is North American artist Robert Indiana's first major UK sculpture exhibition, opening at YSP on 12 March 2022.

Bringing a wealth of experience and passion to the organisation, Clare is active within the wider art world. Since 2012 she has curated Frieze Sculpture in London's Regent's Park, regularly contributes to publications, and recently appeared as an expert in the *Landmark* TV series on Sky Arts. Clare sits on the Advisory Committee of the Government Art Collection, the Advisory Group of the Yinka Shonibare Foundation and the Steering and Curatorial Groups of Yorkshire Sculpture International. She is a Trustee of Art UK, London and the George Rickey Foundation, New York.

Clare Lilley says: *"I'm honoured to have been chosen to become the second Director of Yorkshire Sculpture Park and to lead the organisation through its next chapter. Over the years, it has been a privilege to work with Peter Murray in bringing exemplary art to millions of people. As we all face environmental and social challenges that are exacerbated by the Covid pandemic, I'm confident that YSP's exceptional staff, trustees and supporters are well placed to face the challenges ahead and I relish the opportunity to make YSP even more dynamic and resilient. My love for YSP knows no bounds and my aspirations are of the highest order, as is my understanding of the Park's complex nature and needs. I'm committed to developing this incredible institution in such a way that it is both more widely recognised as a world-leader and more meaningfully than ever serves art, artists and our increasingly diverse audiences."*



Photo © Jonty Wilde

Peter Clegg, Chair of YSP Trustees says:

*“The Trustees are thrilled to announce Clare’s appointment as our new Director, having emerged as the preferred candidate through a challenging process. She has shown through her curatorial work her ability to build on the extraordinary legacy of our Founding Director as well as leading us in new directions as we continue to increase and diversify of our audiences.”*

Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair, Arts Council England says:

*“From its beginnings in a marquee in a field the Yorkshire Sculpture Park has become one of the outstanding places in the world to see contemporary sculpture. Much of this success is due to the leadership and vision of Sir Peter Murray CBE who founded YSP in 1977. I’m delighted to welcome the appointment of Clare Lilley as the second Director of YSP and I have no doubt that she will continue to enhance the reputation of the organisation and the part that it plays in the community in Yorkshire. As the current Director of Programme she has already made a huge contribution to the achievements of YSP and I look forward to seeing the new developments under her leadership.”*

**-ENDS-**

## Notes for Editors

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Download images at [ysp.org.uk/media](http://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](http://ysp.org.uk) | @YSPsculpture

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

Booking essential, via [ysp.org.uk](http://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 Sir Peter Murray CBE, 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, Joana Vasconcelos 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.

## About Clare Lilley, Director, Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Recent curated and published work includes Ai Weiwei, Fiona Banner, Alfredo Jaar, KAWS, Giuseppe Penone, Yinka Shonibare CBE, David Smith, James Turrell, Joana Vasconcelos and Bill Viola. Lilley sits on the Advisory Committee of the Government Art Collection, is a Board member of Art UK, London and the George Rickey Foundation, New York, and is an invited member of the UK Women Leaders in Museums Network. She regularly contributes to publications, recently writing the contextual essay for Phaidon Vitamin C, 'Clay and Ceramic in Contemporary Art'. Since 2012, Lilley has curated Frieze Sculpture, London and in 2021 held the role of expert in the *Landmark* TV series on Sky Arts.

## 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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