



Press Release

Samantha Bryan: The Adventure So Far

17 September — 23 October 2022

YSP Centre

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) presents a new exhibition by designer and illustrator Samantha Bryan.

Working from her garden studio in Mirfield, West Yorkshire, Bryan has produced a new body of work for her exhibition at YSP this October. Known for creating distinctive figures, the artist has gained a worldwide cult following.

For two decades Bryan has been making humorous yet industrious fairy-like creatures; adorned with items from her eclectic hoard of buttons, spotted feathers, seed pods, dyed leathers, and contraptions influenced by Victorian flying machines. She combines these materials and found objects to inform their intriguing personalities.

In 2002, shortly after graduating, Bryan exhibited her collectable fairies at YSP and appeared on the front cover of *Crafts Magazine*. Twenty years on, we are delighted to display a new collection in the main Visitor Centre this autumn. Bryan has utilised her most treasured found items – collected over many years – for this special celebratory exhibition.

Bryan says *“it’s wonderful to arrive at the two-decade mark as a maker, and a celebratory exhibition at Yorkshire Sculpture Park makes it all the more special. Not only is it one of my favourite places, but it was also one of the first places that I showcased my work back in 2002. To be invited to return 20 years on feels like the perfect marker.”*

The celebratory collection of delightful, fun and charming characters will be available to purchase at YSP. A book launch and signing to celebrate Bryan’s first publication, *20 Years A Maker*, will take place at YSP on Saturday 1 October (book via y.sp.org.uk). The commemorative publication features a selection of the artist’s favourite sculptures with early work, sketches, and studio photography visually narrating Bryan’s journey as a maker so far.



Samantha Bryan, *Brain's Bottom Warming Garments for Fairies*, 2021 (detail). Photo © Joanne Crawford, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park

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Notes for Editors

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Download images at yosp.org.uk/press

Listings information

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Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield WF4 4LG

Near Wakefield and Barnsley – M1 Junction 38

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

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

Book tickets at yosp.org.uk

Social media

Instagram and Twitter: @YSPsculpture

Facebook: @YorkshireSculpturePark

LinkedIn: Yorkshire Sculpture Park

#ArtWithoutWalls #YSPSculpture

Notes to editors

About Samantha Bryan

Samantha Bryan is a UK artist who lives and works in Mirfield, West Yorkshire. She graduated with a first-class BA (Hons) degree in Design Crafts-Mixed Media from Hereford College of Art and Design in 2001. Inspired by Victorian gadgetry and invention, Bryan creates illustrative sculptures that evoke a sense of nostalgia, escapism and make-believe. Her making process is laborious and commands a unique concoction of materials and techniques including silver soldering, chemical colouring, hand stitching, and clay modelling.

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 and since 2022 led by Clare Lilley, 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, Alfredo Jaar, 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.

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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