

YSP

Press Release

Annie Montgomerie: Hand Me Downs

5 November 2022 – 26 February 2023

YSP Centre

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) announces the largest exhibition by internationally renowned artist Annie Montgomerie.

Focusing on the enjoyment and sometimes agonising experience of childhood, *Hand Me Downs* features new works by UK based mixed-media artist Annie Montgomerie.

Drawing on her love of animals, Montgomerie creates expressive anthropomorphic creatures that convey a range of magnified childlike emotions. Cats, lambs, foxes, and dogs often feature in her collections, each one covered in layer upon layer of retro fabric, strategically placed to replicate the differing directions of the fur or skin, achieving a 'loved-to-death' threadbare look. Their bodies are made from vintage finds, usually from the 1970s and 1980's, adding a sense of nostalgia to each piece. They often appear sad or lost – a representation of her own feelings of inadequacy as a child.

A skilled mould maker, Montgomerie finds inspiration in vintage photographs, old school class photographs, animal photography, vintage textiles and flea markets. Preferring to work in 3D, sculpting with clay is often her way of sketching ideas to begin the creative process. Starting with the face, she forms the expression and personality with layers of muslin and glue to create a hard outer shell before creating the body and clothes from foraged finds.

Having exhibited two small collections previously at YSP, *Hand Me Downs* is Montgomerie's largest exhibition to date with over 30 unique pieces available to purchase at YSP Shop in the YSP Visitor Centre. A special edition vinyl figure based on *Fuchsia* the sheep and standing approximately 34cm tall, will be available to purchase exclusively in YSP Shop and online.

To celebrate the opening of *Hand Me Downs*, Montgomerie will be signing copies of *Flocked and Socked: The Art of Annie Montgomerie*, the first book dedicated to her work, at the YSP Centre on Saturday 5 November (book via y.sp.org.uk).

-ENDS-



Annie Montgomerie, *Little Terra and Eeffa*, 2022.
Image © the artist, courtesy of Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Notes for Editors

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Download images at yosp.org.uk/press

Listings information

Annie Montgomerie: Hand Me Downs

5 November 2022 — 26 February 2023

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 Annie Montgomerie

Textile and mixed-media artist Annie Montgomerie (b. 1970) works from her hometown of Dorchester, Dorset. After studying stone carving at Weymouth College, in 1991 Montgomerie gained a Higher National Diploma in Art and Design from Plymouth College of Art, specialising in silversmithing and jewellery. Whilst working as an art technician at Thomas Hardy School the artist began working with clay and model making.

Montgomerie has shown her anthropomorphic creatures worldwide and has gained a wealth of fans. Solo exhibitions include *Fitting In*, Beinart Gallery, Victoria, Australia (2022); *Home Time*, The Copro Gallery, Santa Monica, USA (2019); and *Benjamin Pollock's Toyshop*, London, UK (2018). Group exhibition and projects include *LA Art Show*, Los Angeles, USA (2021); and a window display at *Paul & Joe*, Paris, France (2019).

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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