



Press Release

Simon Palmer: Observation of Landscape

4 March – 11 June 2023

YSP Centre

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) announces a solo exhibition of limited edition prints by Simon Palmer inspired by the landscape of Wensleydale, North Yorkshire.

Regarded as one of the UK's leading watercolour artists, Simon Palmer's solo exhibition *Observation of Landscape* draws inspiration from and celebrates the beauty of the Yorkshire Dales around Wensleydale where he has lived and worked for the last 40 years.

Known for his distinctive approach to watercolour, Palmer intricately captures shapes, patterns, sunlight and shadow. His deep links to a specific place align him to a British landscape tradition that includes artists such as Paul Nash, Graham Sutherland and Eric Ravilious. Palmer walks close to his home every day, filling sketchbooks with rapid pen and ink drawings. Narrow lanes, railway bridges, drystone walls, farms, ancient trees, woodland and the moors; each scene is a starting point for his paintings, which use a subtle colour palette to capture the seasons.

Observation of Landscape features a collection of 18 limited edition giclée prints of original watercolour paintings. The editions will be available to purchase in YSP Shops and online, with proceeds supporting YSP's charitable work. The prints have been created from Palmer's much sought-after watercolour paintings dated from 1993-2021, that depict quintessentially English scenes, reminiscent of wartime paintings from the 1940s. Each work is numbered, titled and signed by the artist and printed onto Hahnemuhle Matt Fine Art Textured Albrecht Durer 210 gsm paper in an edition of 100.

YSP has developed a series of products to accompany the exhibition which includes three mini prints featuring the works *Cycling Home*, *Ascending from the Bridge* and *Novices Searching for Their Souls*, and a pack of 10 A5 postcards. The mini prints will retail at £10 and the postcard pack at £12.

Palmer has exhibited worldwide, and his works are in many public collections including the National Trust and the Penn Club, London as well as private collections in the UK, USA, Australia and Japan. He was awarded an honorary membership to the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour in 2007.

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Simon Palmer, *Sun Setting on Watlass Moor*, 2019. Image © the artist, printed by Paul Berriff, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park.



Simon Palmer, *Ascending from the Bridge*, 1994. Image © the artist, printed by Paul Berriff, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park.



Simon Palmer, *Swinney Beck Bank*, 2021. Image © the artist, printed by Paul Berriff, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Notes for Editors

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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

LinkedIn: Yorkshire Sculpture Park

#ArtWithoutWalls #YSPSculpture

About Simon Palmer

Simon Palmer was born in Yorkshire in 1956 and was brought up in Bromley where his family moved when he was eight months old. He graduated from Reigate Art School in 1977. In the spring of 1976 he travelled from the south of England with friends to spend a few days in Lastingham, North Yorkshire. It was then that he fell in love with the landscape that has been his inspiration ever since. For the past 40 years he has lived and worked in Wensleydale, North Yorkshire.

Palmer has exhibited extensively since 1980 and held ten exhibitions in London with JHW Fine Art. Since 2015 he has exhibited bi-annually with the Portland Gallery in conjunction with JHW Fine Art. Other notable exhibitions include in 2004 a retrospective show *Territories of the Imagination* held at the Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate and he later curated Palmer's Choice at the same venue. On a number of occasions his work has been selected for display at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition where he won the 2007 Turner/Winsor and Newton Watercolour Award. Other notable exhibitions include the National Trust Centenary exhibition, *British Landscape Painting in the Twentieth Century*.

He has also exhibited at Crane Kalman Gallery, *Dreamers of Landscape* at Bohun Gallery, *Art and Yorkshire: Turner to Hockney* at the Mercer Art Gallery and the Glyndebourne Festival Opera exhibition. He is an Honorary Member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours.

About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture. Welcoming around 400,000 visitors each year, 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 *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, Damien Hirst, Studio Morison, Hemali Bhuta 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 outdoors. Recent highlights include exhibitions by Fiona Banner,

Anthony Caro, Tony Cragg, Robert Indiana, 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 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 and awarded VisitEngland's gold accolade in 2021-22 for an outstanding visitor attraction.

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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