



Press Release

Lindsey Mendick: Where The Bodies Are Buried

6 April – 3 September 2023

The Weston Gallery

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) announces the first UK museum solo exhibition by artist Lindsey Mendick.

Lindsey Mendick's solo exhibition will transform The Weston Gallery at YSP, taking the form of a multi-media installation that investigates dreams, Gothic stories, television and cultural experiences. Bringing the artist's recurring anxiety dream to life, *Where The Bodies Are Buried* takes the form of a decaying house with dark secrets buried beneath the floorboards.

Works will include ceramics and stained glass emerging from the floor as hands, feet and limbs, with a film playing across several screens creating a chorus for simultaneous viewing. Anxiety dreams have long inspired artists and writers, ranging from Eve's prophetic dream about eating the forbidden fruit in *Paradise Lost*, to Surrealist paintings and sculpture depicting hauntings and dream-states. The phrase 'where the bodies are buried' means to possess information or secrets about a person or organisation. In Mendick's installation, the secrets are both literal and metaphorical, the buried bodies signifying her fear of being 'found out' and misdeeds of the past being unearthed.

The installation references the popular 1990s UK soap opera *Brookside*, in which abusive husband and father Terry Jordache was stabbed to death by his wife Mandy in 1993. Mandy buried his body under the patio, assisted by their daughter Beth who was played by Anna Friel. In a storyline watched and discussed by millions, the body was eventually discovered in 1995 and Mandy and Beth were charged and imprisoned. Mendick reflects on this plotline and the simultaneous, communal television viewing and shared cultural experience of 1990s soaps. Her work mirrors the tensions, crescendo and drama of years-long narratives, in contrast to contemporary on-demand viewing culture. Mendick also draws on Edgar Allan Poe's 1843 short story *The Tell-Tale Heart* in which a murderer is plagued by the sound of a heartbeat. He assumes it is that of his victim buried below the floorboards, but the sound is likely the narrator's own heart betraying him. The story is a powerful reflection on paranoia and guilt, driven by the pounding heartbeat as a rhythmic compulsion to confess.

Mendick creates worlds layered with personal anecdotes, timeless myths and popular culture references. She works predominantly with clay – a material that has historically been associated with decoration



Lindsey Mendick. Copyright of Lindsey Mendick.
Courtesy of Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate. Photo ©
Elissa Cray.

and the domestic sphere. She acknowledges and subverts these associations, creating intricate works that explore the roles and experiences of women in society. Dark comedy permeates Mendick's practice, and her confessional approach knowingly combines crushing self-doubt with sensational honesty. Her installations draw on the artist's own stories and memories, with humorous, grotesque and beautiful results.

While exploring personal anxieties, the installation will draw attention to the layers of history and the lives that have played out on YSP's grounds over centuries. Seams of clay, Mendick's primary medium, are present within the earth on the 500-acre site. The clay is intermingled with coal fragments which, via extraction and exhuming elsewhere in Yorkshire, brought wealth and status to the families who shaped this landscape.

-ENDS-



Lindsey Mendick, *I Drink To You Isobel*, 2022. Copyright of Lindsey Mendick. Courtesy of Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate. Photo © Ollie Harrop.



Lindsey Mendick, *I Drink To You Pandora (Cockroach Invasion)*, 2022. Copyright of Lindsey Mendick. Courtesy of Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate. Photo © Ollie Harrop.

Notes for Editors

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Listings information

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield WF4 4LG

Near Wakefield and Barnsley – M1 Junction 38

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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 Lindsey Mendick

Lindsey Mendick was born in London in 1987, she lives and works in Margate, UK. Mendick works primarily with ceramics, embedding her sculptures within installations that include stained glass, film, furniture, large stage sets and performance. She received a BA from Sheffield Hallam University (2009–12) and MA in Sculpture from the Royal College of Art, London (2015–17). Her autobiographical work offers a form of catharsis, encouraging the viewer to explore their own personal history through the revisionist lens of the artist. Mendick has been selected by Tracey Emin to be a studio holder in her foundation's TKE Studios, Margate. She is represented by Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate.

Mendick's work has been shown in solo exhibitions at Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate. In 2022 Mendick was included in the major exhibition *Strange Clay: Ceramics in Contemporary Art* at the Hayward Gallery, London. Other notable exhibitions include at Somerset House, London; Goldsmiths CCA, London; Eastside Projects, Birmingham; Jeffrey Deitch, New York; Cooke Latham, London; Space, Ilford; Castor Projects, London; Hannah Barry Gallery, London; Vitrine, Basel; Visual Arts Center, Austin, Texas; Oriol Wrexham, Wales; STCFTHOTS, Leeds and One Thoresby Street, Nottingham. She has previously been commissioned to make new projects that included ceramic workshops at Kunstraum, London; The Turnpike Pottery, Leigh and for the Cheltenham Council. With her partner, the artist Guy Oliver, Mendick initiated Quench Gallery in Margate, to provide vital support for early career artists through exhibitions and mentoring.

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 open air. 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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