



Press Release

From ecofeminism to junkyard bath meditations, Yorkshire Sculpture Park sets out to discover the next big artistic talent in the region

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is launching its 2023 Yorkshire Graduate Award that offers a unique residency opportunity for a graduate artist to develop and showcase their talent.



Ami Horrocks, Melusine, 2023. Courtesy of the artist.

Set in 500 acres of historically designed landscape, YSP is an international centre for the creation, display and appreciation of modern and contemporary sculpture. For over 45 years, residencies have been at the heart of YSP offering opportunities for emerging artists to reflect and move forward with their practice. To help nurture regional artistic talent, the Yorkshire Graduate Award was launched in 2018, attracting entries from across the region. This year's residency is open to any recently graduated BA or MA artist, from any Yorkshire-based university, looking to work and stay on-site during the winter of 2023 or spring 2024.

The Award offers a residency for up to two weeks at the Park, onsite accommodation, access to facilities including metal and wood workshops, and time with the YSP technical team. The award winner will also receive a £750 fee and £250 for materials to develop new ideas and will receive invaluable support from YSP's curatorial team.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for an emerging artist at what can be a difficult time after graduating",

explained Sarah Coulson, YSP's Senior Curator. *"They will be supported throughout their residency by YSP's experienced curatorial and technical teams who have worked with artists from all over the world."*

"We hope that applying for the Graduate Award feels like a positive experience for everyone as we aim to provide specific feedback to every candidate who applies."

Previous winners include Ami Horrocks for the 2022-23 season, who explained: "I make iconic symbols of women in the landscape, I have a ritualistic practice, and am interested in the political and psychological ramifications of symbols on the feminist movement.

"The residency has been very important to me in further developing the nature of my practice, as an artist that needs environment and landscape to respond to, especially to weather and seasonal change. I have appreciated the opportunity to access this unique landscape at all times of day as a nature canvas to experiment and create within, to develop my video and sculpture-based work."

"The flexibility to spread the residency throughout the winter months enabled my work to gestate through a season and allowed winter's ecological cycles of decomposition and regeneration to embed within the work I made. This flexibility also supported my practicalities as a single parent-artist, it has been particularly poignant to me and my practice to be able to bring my children along with me during the residency."

Horrocks' practice explores landscape through the female lens, lost female histories and goddess theory, drawing inspiration from her own experiences of motherhood. She explores principles of care in relation to the environment and landscape, considering the gestures and traces we make on the land. Aply demonstrating a breadth of regional talent, the award supported Jessica Rost in 2021-22, a sculptor and performance artist who considers the sustainability of art practices and lives off-grid. During her time at YSP, the University of Leeds Fine Arts (MA) graduate continued her investigation into low impact living and temporary "homes" whilst researching the history of protest camps, environmental activism and the importance of plants.

Anyone who is interested in entering can submit a PDF document of up to 5 pages including a short statement on their current practice, any information about their final degree work, images of their work and a simple outline of their plans if they were to be offered the residency. This plan doesn't have to be definitive and can change and evolve during the course of the residency.

YSP accepts the written elements of the application as audio recordings, videos or voice notes of up to 5 minutes. YSP welcomes applications from all artistic disciplines and any access needs will be considered. For more information about YSP visit: www.ysp.org.uk.

Applications should be submitted to curators@ysp.org.uk with a **deadline of July 21, 2023**.

-ENDS-

Notes for editors

Press enquiries

Elise Hammond, Sutton / +44 (0)20 7183 3577 / elise@suttoncomms.com

Deborah Hastie / +44 (0) 77 9957 5558 / deborah.hastie.org.uk

Kirsty Young, Head of Marketing and PR, YSP / +44 (0)1924 832 515 / comms@ysp.org.uk

Download images at ysp.org.uk/press

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

Book tickets at ysp.org.uk

Social media

Instagram and Twitter: @YSPsculpture

Facebook: @YorkshireSculpturePark

LinkedIn: Yorkshire Sculpture Park

#ArtWithoutWalls #YSPSculpture

About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture. Welcoming 380,000 visitors in 2022, 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 the 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.



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