



Press Release

Little Wild Wood

Opening Saturday 23 March 2024

Yorkshire Sculpture Park unveils a new family friendly outdoor play space, combining sustainable natural materials and sculpture by local artist Brian Fell.



Little Wild Wood, installation view at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, 2024. Photo © David Lindsay, courtesy YSP.

An exciting new place to play, discover and imagine, Little Wild Wood at Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is set to open in time for the Easter holidays, building on the charity's reputation as one of Yorkshire's premier family visitor attractions.

The family-friendly Little Wild Wood has nature and creativity at its heart and sits within two of YSP's 500 acres of beautiful landscape. It has been created predominantly using sustainable natural materials that have been foraged or repurposed from other areas of the Park. YSP's talented Technical Team has utilised windfall trees, stumps, willow and refurbished picnic benches to create the brand-new space for our younger visitors to enjoy.

Located next to the main Visitor Centre, Little Wild Wood welcomes you in with tunnels made from natural willow, leading to a vibrant willow dome. It then opens up into a magical woodland to reveal teepees where families can build dens together, and tree stump stepping stones and raised wooden platforms to adventure across. There is even a wooden house which encourages imaginative play, where children can get creative with found natural materials and invent their own games and stories.

Celebrated local sculptor Brian Fell, whose studio is based at YSP, has also generously donated three giant sculptures to Little Wild Wood – a two-metre-high desert rat, a towering pineapple and a 360-degree onion seat – specially for children to discover and explore.

Director of YSP Clare Lilley said: *"We're really excited by Little Wild Wood and know it's something our new and regular visitors will love. Creative play is central to YSP's cause – play at all ages improves our physical, social, cognitive and emotional well-being and is an essential element of children's learning and development."*

This easily accessible art and nature play area enables young visitors to get messy and make their own playground in nature. It adds another element to an already rich offer at YSP, sitting alongside our award-winning galleries, shops, restaurants, outdoor sculpture and beautiful, sprawling landscape. It also complements YSP's Hidden Forest, another permanent outdoor creative woodland, specifically designed for under-5s, which is open for special activity sessions on advertised dates throughout the year.

With a degree of freedom that is not available in the classroom or even many homes, children can visit Little Wild Wood to make and build, lift and carry, get muddy, create their own games and natural sculptures, think through challenges, bond with others and be inspired, but most of all, have fun.

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Little Wild Wood, installation view at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, 2024. Photo © David Lindsay, courtesy YSP.



Above and below: Little Wild Wood, installation view at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, 2024. Photo © David Lindsay, courtesy YSP.





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Notes for editors

Press enquiries

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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 Tuesday – Sunday. Closed on Mondays in winter until 24 March (excluding school and Bank Holidays) and 24–25 December.

Book tickets at ysp.org.uk, 18 and under go free

Social media

Instagram and Twitter: @YSPsculpture

Facebook: @YorkshireSculpturePark

LinkedIn: Yorkshire Sculpture Park

About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

In 2023 YSP was awarded Visitor Attraction of the Year and Cultural Award in the Yorkshire Post Tourism Awards and awarded VisitEngland's gold accolade in 2021-22 for an outstanding visitor attraction.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), Art Fund Museum of the Year 2014, is the UK's leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture. Welcoming around 380,000 visitors each year, YSP is an independent charitable trust and registered museum situated in the 500-acre, 18th-century Bretton Hall estate in West and South 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, Hemali Bhuta and Ai Weiwei, and site-specific 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. Highlights include exhibitions by Leilah Babirye, Fiona Banner, Anthony Caro, Tony Cragg, Leonardo Drew, Robert Indiana, Amar Kanwar, KAWS, Bharti Kher, Joan Miró, Henry Moore, Lindsey Mendick, Annie Morris, Giuseppe Penone, Jaume Plensa, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Sean Scully, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Chiharu Shiota, David Smith, Joana Vasconcelos, Bill Viola and Erwin Wurm.

Across its 47-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.