



Press Release

Yorkshire Sculpture Park offers artistic development opportunity with the 2024 Yorkshire Graduate Award



Photo © Astrid Butt, courtesy YSP.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) has launched the 2024 Yorkshire Graduate Award that offers a residency opportunity for a graduate artist to develop their practice.

For over 47 years, artist residencies have been at the heart of YSP, offering opportunities for emerging artists to reflect on and move forward with their creative practice. Launched in 2018 to help nurture regional artistic talent, the Award attracts an eclectic mix of entries that feature a variety of mediums including sculpture, performance, film, photography and audio sound. The residency is open to recently graduated BA or MA artists, from any Yorkshire-based university. The winner will be invited to work on-site during the autumn/winter of 2024 or spring 2025.

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

“This is a fantastic opportunity for an early-career artist to reflect on their practice, experiment with new ideas and consider next steps” **explained Louise Lohr, YSP's Deputy Curator.** “Every year we see exceptionally talented graduates submitting their work, so it is in an incredibly difficult task choosing just one award winner.”

Previous winners include Leeds-based Astrid Butt in 2023-24 who uses animal-human hybrid characters to explore gender, motherhood and domestication. Studying for a Master's Degree in Fine Art at University of Leeds, her work has developed from a feminist perspective. Influenced by the mood and style of classic David Lynch horror films, Butt utilised YSP's 500-acre parkland to full effect shooting expansive and atmospheric footage for her new short film.

Butt explained: "When I began applying for this award last year, I couldn't have envisioned the doors that it has opened for me artistically. This has been my first residency and it has been life changing to say the least.

"Getting the Yorkshire Graduate Award has been an incredible opportunity. The time I have spent at the Park has been unforgettable. As a Fine Art graduate, it is increasingly difficult to find a fulfilling career that matches your skillset or balance a full-time job with your artistic practice. Yorkshire Sculpture Park has given me the opportunity to develop my skills, compensated me for my work and time, and given me a platform to share my art with the public, for which I am endlessly thankful!"



Photo © Astrid Butt, courtesy YSP.

Anyone who is interested in applying for the Award can submit a PDF document of up to 5 pages including a short statement on their current practice, information about their final degree work, images of their wider 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 all access needs will be considered. For more information about YSP visit www.ysp.org.uk.

Applications should be submitted to curators@ysp.org.uk by the **deadline on 19 July 2024**.

- ENDS -

Notes for editors

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Download images at yvsp.org.uk/press

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

Book tickets at yvsp.org.uk

Social media

Instagram and Twitter: @YSPsculpture

Facebook: @YorkshireSculpturePark

LinkedIn: Yorkshire Sculpture Park

#ArtWithoutWalls #YSPSculpture

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 a registered charity and accredited museum situated in the 500-acre, 18th-century Bretton Hall estate in West and South Yorkshire.

YSP is led by Clare Lilley, and was founded in 1977 by Sir Peter Murray CBE, it 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 Hemali Bhuta, Roger Hiorns, Damien Hirst, Kimsooja and Erwin Wurm, 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. 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, 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.



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