



Press Release

Carol Douglas: Actually I Can

13 July – 27 October 2024
YSP Centre

Opening in July, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) presents a new body of original work by York-based painter Carol Douglas, in her largest exhibition to date.

Actually I Can includes 51 new paintings of various sizes, all of which will be for sale. Prices range from £325 to £1,430 with all proceeds going direct to the artist and to YSP to support its charitable work. Works will be hung in several spaces in the YSP Centre, including the Upper Space Gallery, and the Kitchen Café.

Douglas, who was dissuaded from pursuing an arts qualification at school, has developed her own style since taking up painting in her 60s; painting with acrylic and applying it to the canvas using rollers rather than the traditional paint brush. She builds the paint up layer after layer, with a warm palette of greys, browns and mustards. Influenced by Outsider Art, Art Brut and Folk Art, terms used to describe art with a naïve and decorative quality, her alluring paintings depict recognisable household objects and people in domestic settings, and are inspired by her experiences of everyday life.

The exhibition's title *Actually I Can* is inspired by Douglas's background. Following a very successful career as a sociologist and community worker, she enrolled onto an art foundation course at York College in her 60s. Now in her 70s, Douglas has exhibited in several galleries in the UK, collaborated with brands including TOAST and her work is collected worldwide.

Giving visitors a special glimpse into the working life of a painter, the YSP Shop window will be transformed into a replica of the artist's York studio, including a display of six paintings.

Carol Douglas says:

"I am delighted to have my largest exhibition to date at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, for which I have included a bespoke series of large-scale paintings for the café space. This exhibition has encouraged me to revisit my back catalogue of work, drawing from and bringing together my favourite ideas from across my painting career thus far, putting it all together for one show. The



Carol Douglas, *Early Breakfast*, 2023. Image © the artist. Photo © Scott Dunwoodie, courtesy of Yorkshire Sculpture Park



Carol Douglas, *Quiet Lunch*, 2023. Image © the artist. Photo © Scott Dunwoodie, courtesy of Yorkshire Sculpture Park

spaces in Yorkshire Sculpture Park that my work will be shown in have been a key inspiration for the making on this show, and having the opportunity to present in such a prestigious art venue is a joy and a privilege.”

In addition to all 51 original paintings, YSP has produced a series of small prints for visitors to purchase from the shop as a keepsake, priced at £12 each.

YSP is a registered charity and accredited museum in West Yorkshire. All proceeds from sales help YSP to remain open and continue to create meaningful, enjoyable experiences for everyone in a unique environment.

-ENDS-



Left to right: Carol Douglas, *Supper*, 2023; *Pink Harlequin Skirt*, 2024; *Greek Lemons*, 2024, and *Kitchen Utensils*, 2023. Images © the artist. Photos © Scott Dunwoodie, courtesy of Yorkshire Sculpture Park

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 Monday – Sunday until 29 September 2024, closed on Mondays thereafter (except Bank Holidays and Wakefield school holidays) and 24–25 December.
Book tickets at ysp.org.uk

Social media

Instagram and X: @YSPsculpture
Facebook: @YorkshireSculpturePark
LinkedIn: Yorkshire Sculpture Park
#ArtWithoutWalls #YSPSculpture

About Carol Douglas

Carol Douglas is a Middlesbrough-born, York-based artist. Before becoming an artist, Douglas worked a variety of jobs, including kindergarten teacher, in which she was a creative enabler. She was lucky enough to spend six years in Bangkok in her 50's, and was inspired by meeting artists in Bali, Japan and Borneo, yet still unaware of her ambition of becoming a painter.

In her late 60's, Douglas took the leap and enrolled on an Art Foundation course at York College. This gave her the confidence to start painting and at the end of the course, she won the York College of Art and Design Lifelong Student of the Year Award 2018.

Douglas draws inspiration from Outsider Art, a term used to describe art which has a naïve quality and often produced by an untrained artist, Art Brut which translates to 'raw art' made outside of the academic tradition of fine art, and Folk Art which is usually decorative or utilitarian. She has collected art throughout her life, with an extensive collection of paintings and sculptures.

She works with acrylic on canvas, detailing with oil pastel. Becoming a painter was a natural extension of her interest in art, design, architecture, and interiors. She has always responded strongly to colour and developed her own distinctive colour palette. Many of her themes were initially derived from the domestic setting but recently she has begun to paint figures in a semi-abstract style.

Douglas' first foray into exhibiting her work was at cafe Partisan in York, who have been incredibly supportive of her career. She regularly takes part in York Open Studios, which is an opportunity to show people her studio, discuss her work and process. She has had solo exhibitions at The Table, Hay on Why (2023) and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield (2024). Group exhibitions include *O rose, cut in rock*, Sax and Bird, London (2023), and *Spring Show*, Will and Yates, Deal (2024). Forthcoming exhibitions include a solo show in Hay on Wye in November 2024. She is a named artist at Hicks Gallery.

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 an 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. 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.



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