

Press Release

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) invites visitors of all ages to enjoy a Summer of Fun



Robert Indiana, *LOVE Red Blue Green*, 1966- 1998. Photo © Jane Hewitt. Artwork © 2022 Morgan Art Foundation Ltd. Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York-DACS, London

YSP is offering a whole host of free creative activities to try out during this summer holidays with something to appeal to all ages. Kids and adults alike are sure to be entertained, inspired and rejuvenated.

A registered charity and accredited museum, YSP was awarded Yorkshire's Tourist Attraction of the Year in 2023 and received Visit England's Gold Accolade for outstanding visitor attraction in 2024. A jewel in the Yorkshire landscape, it is the perfect place to enjoy a day out with family, to meet up with friends and make lasting memories together.

Kevin Rodd, YSP Deputy Director, said: *"Teams across YSP have worked hard to programme a diverse range of new and exciting activities for all ages this summer aligned with our four fantastic new exhibitions and over 90 outdoor sculptures. Flowers are in full bloom and the Park is awash with wildlife, from Kingfishers to Highland cattle, enriching the beautiful Yorkshire scenery. There's no other visitor attraction like YSP; it's a special place for many, and we look forward to welcoming new and returning visitors over the coming months."*

Free, drop-in events will run throughout the summer holidays including *Outdoor Sculpture Building: Come Rain, Come Shine* every Tuesday, where kids can get stuck into making sculpture with natural materials, *Family Fridays at the Imagination Station*, *Hidden Forest Fridays* and *Artful Saturdays* in the Underground



Henry Moore, *Large Two Forms*, 1966-69. Courtesy of the Henry Moore Foundation. Photo © Paolina Varbichkova

Gallery, surrounded by awe-inspiring art. A new *Myths and Magic* trail is sure to be a hit for those who enjoy a guided walk while learning about sculpture along the way.

Open every day is YSP's new, colourful and inviting *Imagination Station* in the Underground Gallery – a room for exploring, playing, building and drawing, and learning more about Bharti Kher's exceptional new exhibition *Alchemies*.

Also open daily is *Little Wild Wood* – a new outdoor natural creative play space, designed to ignite imaginations – somewhere for younger kids to build dens, jump through the trees, getting closer to nature and art.

In addition to activities and events, YSP 'the big daddy of British sculpture parks' has over 90 sculptures by leading artists set within its 500 acres of breathtaking Yorkshire landscape – the perfect backdrop for summer strolls with an ice cream from one of the on-site cafés, or a picnic in the shade.

Enjoy delicious locally sourced and freshly prepared food at several cafés across YSP. The Kitchen Cafés is the perfect place for a cooked breakfast or a lunch. The panoramic balcony provides superb views across the Country Park. Visitors coming together to mark a special occasion at YSP can indulge in Afternoon Tea or a celebratory three course meal at The Weston restaurant.

With so much to see and do throughout the holiday, visitors are guaranteed to want to return time and time again. YSP has introduced a special Summer Visitor Pass at £40 for unlimited visits, and kids always go free.

Conveniently located near Wakefield, Leeds, and Sheffield, YSP is easy to reach by car from the M1 (junction 38), by bus (96 from Wakefield and Barnsley), and by train to Wakefield Westgate and a taxi. Car parking is always free, and there are several disabled bays available for pre-booking.

Dogs are warmly welcomed at YSP, making it an ideal destination for the whole family, including your furry friends. With spacious grounds and numerous pathways, YSP ensures a fun and engaging experience for both two and four-legged visitors.

Key free events and activities for families at YSP this summer with a standard entry to YSP, kids go free:

Discover [Little Wild Wood](#) – YSP's new natural creative play space, designed to inspire imaginations – somewhere for kids to connect to nature and sculpture at their level.

Visit the **Imagination Station** in the Underground Gallery. Enjoy drawing, making and chatting together, using playful Activity Baskets inspired by the themes and artworks in [Bharti Kher: Alchemies](#).



Hidden Forest at YSP. Photo © David Lindsay

Enjoy free family resources to discover new exhibitions by [Leilah Babirye: Obumu \(Unity\)](#) at the Chapel and [Elisabeth Frink: Natural Connection](#) at The Weston and Outdoors.

Pick up a trail sheet from the Information Desk at the YSP Visitor Centre and go on a sculpture and nature inspired scavenger hunt with the new **Myths and Magic Sculpture Trail**.

[Outdoor Sculpture Building: Come Rain, Come Shine](#)

30 July, 6, 13, 20 and 27 August

Work and play together to build outdoor sculptures inspired by artists at YSP. Stack, balance and assemble to create personal, supersized sculptures.

[Family Fridays at the Imagination Station](#)

2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 August

A drop-in session where families can play and experiment freely with materials inspired by Bharti Kher's magical art-making methods. Led by artist Puy Soden, the session takes place outdoors.

[Hidden Forest Fridays](#)

26 July, 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 August

Drop-in to the magical Hidden Forest for children to explore, create and play under a canopy of trees.

[Artful Saturdays: a creative family gathering](#)

27 July and 31 August

A creative family gathering once a month – to explore, discover and get creative in the gallery surrounded by the Bharti Kher: *Alchemies* exhibition.

[Sculpture Baby: Hidden Forest](#)

21 August

Enjoy time with your baby under a canopy of trees at an outdoor sensory session inspired by the unique art and nature at YSP.

[Opera North Youth Company: Songs of Alchemy](#)

4 August, 1.45pm and 3.15pm

Bharti Kher's monumental exhibition *Alchemies* will be activated by voices from the Youth Company of the prestigious Leeds-based Opera North.

[Sculpture Spy Trail](#)

There are over 90 outdoor sculptures to be discovered at YSP. Pick up a Sculpture Spy activity sheet from the Information Desk and challenge yourself to find them all.

[Sculpture and Nature Hunt](#)

Seek out sculptures and discover the beauty of nature at YSP. Pick up our Sculpture and Nature Hunt from the Information Desk or download before your visit.

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 seven days a week, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Book tickets at ysp.org.uk

Social media

Instagram and X: @YSPsculpture

Facebook: @YorkshireSculpturePark

LinkedIn: Yorkshire Sculpture Park

#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 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, and 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, Sam 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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