



## Press Release

# Sarah Kirby: A Printmaker's Landscape

9 November 2024 – 22 February 2025

YSP Centre

Inspired by Yorkshire Sculpture Park's (YSP) landmarks and vistas, renowned printmaker Sarah Kirby creates a whole new body of work for a stunning exhibition.

Claiming the coveted Christmas retail exhibition slot at YSP, Sarah Kirby will present a new series of original linocuts in the main Visitor Centre.

The Leicester-based artist is one of the UK's leading linocut printmakers. She is inspired by British public spaces, buildings, gardens, flora and fauna, and works out of her garden studio.

Kirby has been visiting YSP throughout 2023-24 to document her favourite walking routes and landmarks at the Park. She has sketched and taken photographs, discovering the various species of trees across the landscape unearthing new views and natural forms, from which she has created this new, unique body of work. All of the prints will be for sale, with prices from £150 to £350. YSP is a charity, and all proceeds from sales support its work inspiring all people to enjoy and engage with art, nature and creativity.

Growing up next door to Cambridge University Botanic Garden, Kirby's father was a plant physiologist who taught her the joys of gardening and inspired her to explore and interact with nature. She has spent her life building up knowledge about the future of nature, contemplating the existence of nature for people, plants, the future, the security of food production, and the preservation of trees and wooded areas.



Sarah Kirby, *Three Moore Sheep*, 2023. Image © the artist. Photo © Chris Large, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park





Sarah Kirby, *Walk From The Camellia House I*, 2023. Image © the artist. Photo © Chris Large, courtesy of Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Kirby uses a minimalistic but bold colour palette that reflects upon the typical and expected colours of the landscape, whilst including some unexpected elements. This is perfectly illustrated in the Camellia House series which depict her YSP visits during Spring 2023 when the Camellias were in full bloom. Here she uses the many shades of pinks and droplets of water on the glass panes distorting the pinks, making the entire space look like a magical stage set.

Kirby also employs iconic sculptures such as the Henry Moore *Reclining Figure: Arch Leg* (1969-70) and legacy pieces such as *Peter's Fold* (2022) and *Shadow Fold Stone* (2007) by Andy Goldsworthy, as well as YSP's historical buildings such as the Bretton Hall, the Bothy, the 18th century Chapel, the Greek Temple and the Shell Grotto. Pooling all of these features and attributes together, Kirby has generated an artistic map of YSP; an impressionistic illustrator's view that culminates in *A Printmaker's Landscape*.

**Sarah explained:** "Having the show coming up at YSP has been a great opportunity for me to really explore the Park over the last 18 months. I enjoyed YSP before but in the past have tended to head towards the exhibitions and do a relatively similar walk every time. I now have had time to explore the Park - take different routes and walks through different seasons and all weathers.

"Walking with a sketchbook, mostly on my own, has focussed my thoughts and extended the pauses along the way. I have discovered new favourite spots, views, sculptures and trees! I love that in some parts of the Park I can feel as though I am on my own in nature, it is also a place clearly enjoyed and used by so many people in different ways all year round.

"For me the historic elements - not just Bretton Hall but, for instance, the Greek Temple in the woods, the cordoned fruit trees in the walled Bothy Garden, the mix of now mature specimen trees add to its interest and keep alive the connection and need that people have for green spaces ... places where my mind can rest and my imagination can roam."

**Amanda Peach, Retail Programme and Development Manager at YSP,** said: "Sarah has a curiosity and deep interest for learning about historic landscapes and heritage sites; their past occupants and the buildings they occupied. She illustrates scenes with an alternative viewpoint,



looking at places through the eyes of a skilled printmaker who is imagining the image being built up from layers of cut away lino.”

She added: “Sarah excels in linocut printmaking with her work portraying great dexterity and skill of mark making, creating texture and depth whilst showing an understanding of her medium; knowing when to cut and reveal and when not to cut. Her method is a considered, handcrafted process from start to finish and takes time to refine and create a finished print. But she still creates the whole edition of prints herself, feeling the process and the idea are entirely bound together as one.”

Sarah Kirby: *A Printmaker's Landscape* opens 9 November 2024 - 22 February 2025 and all of the prints will be for sale.

-ENDS-



Above: Sarah Kirby, *Walk From The Camellia House I*, 2023. Image © the artist. Photo © Chris Large, courtesy of Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Below: Sarah Kirby, *The Hall, The Geese & A Henry Moore*, 2023. Image © the artist. Photo © Chris Large, courtesy of Yorkshire Sculpture Park



## Notes for Editors

### Press enquiries

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Download images at [ysp.org.uk/press](https://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](https://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](https://ysp.org.uk)

### Social media

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

### About Sarah Kirby

Sarah Kirby is a Leicester-based printmaker, renowned for her linocut prints. Kirby has a longstanding interest in nature, inspired by her childhood experiences growing up with a father who worked as a botanist, and living in the centre of Cambridge, adjacent to the Cambridge University Botanic Garden. This influence manifests in her work through depictions of gardens, trees, and landscapes, highlighting the interaction between people and their environment.

In addition to nature, another important theme in Kirby's work is the exploration of architecture, predominantly in Leicester, and its significance within the city's history and people's lives. Her prints often depict buildings and urban landscapes that reflect a deep connection to the city and its evolving narrative. Noteworthy among these was her participation in the 2012 Leverhulme Artist in Residence award, where Kirby created a body of work focussing on the city's manufacturing past and its reinvention. Similarly, in 2019, Kirby took part in a residency at Launde Abbey in Rutland, reflecting on the interplay of human intervention and natural landscapes.

Kirby's love for printmaking was sparked on her Art Foundation course where the Print Studio was run by artist Walter Hoyle (1922-2000). Kirby pursued her passion for art at West Surrey College of Art and Design, earning a BA in Fine Art in 1984. This foundation was further solidified with an MA in Museum and Gallery Studies from City University in 1987. Her academic journey continued with an MA in Fine Art from Nottingham Trent University in 1993, setting the stage for a career marked by a blend of artistic practice and curatorial expertise.

From 1993 - 2000, Kirby held the role of the Manager of Leicester Print Workshop, a position that allowed her to immerse herself in both printmaking and a vibrant artist community. This role was influential in shaping her career, providing her with access to essential print facilities and fostering her connection to the local artistic scene.

### 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 Dunard Fund.



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