



Press Release

Leeds-based artist George Moody wins 2024 Yorkshire Graduate Award.

Selected by Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) George Moody (they/them) has a multi-disciplinary practice that spans bio art, sculpture, photography, installation and digital. They are inspired by the ideas of Queer Ecology (the combination of Queer theory and Eco-criticism), to tune into the unique rhythms of nature.

Recent projects include *It Ends With You*, a title addressed to the natural materials within the installation which featured 40 petri dishes of decaying foliage and mould suspended in mid-air in a darkened theatre space. By experimenting with features of performance design such as lighting, sound and staging, Moody invited audiences to witness how the mould transformed in the environment over a period of two days. They viewed this work as a 'love note' to a material they have used widely in their practice, which will outlive humans due to its complex and adaptive nature.



George Moody. Photo © George Moody, courtesy of Yorkshire Sculpture Park

At YSP they hope to extend these ideas and work in the Park's natural landscape to develop sustainable materials. Moody will collect and combine water samples from the lake with decomposable bioplastics made from algae to produce a series of seasonal 'bio paintings', experimenting with natural and artificial light forms to activate these works. They hope to learn about the lifespan of bioplastics and how the natural environment will impact the material's growth, culminating in a public event at the end of their residency.

Moody, who has recently graduated from the University of Leeds with an MA in Performance Design, can now look forward to a residency of up to two weeks at YSP, including access to facilities and time with the technical team. They will also receive a £750 fee and £250 for materials to develop new ideas, as well as invaluable support from YSP's curatorial team.

They said: "*Inspired by the ideas of Queer Ecology, [my] work seeks to attune to a 'nature' we haven't reckoned with just yet; one that transgresses our conceptions of nature as mute and passive to the climate crisis. I'm always questioning how to get closer to the spaces and paces of a queer ecology.*"

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"My work is always material-led, asking what I can do to fall in step with the traces of a slippery 'nature' that we encounter unknowingly on an everyday basis. Queer notions of intimacy and care always inform how I engage with natural matter and unstitching their simplistic narratives."

They added: *"Receiving the award feels like an incredible opportunity to see my work flourish in a place I have been inspired by for years. It is incredibly validating to know the curatorial team recognise what my practice strives to do and wants to support its development. This opportunity will be one that shapes my future and I will always be enormously grateful for that."*



George Moody. Photo © George Moody, courtesy of Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Louise Lohr, YSP's Deputy Curator said: *"Each year we're so impressed with the standard of applications we receive – there's an incredible amount of talent in the region. We're delighted to be able to support George and look forward to seeing how their work develops."*

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, installation, performance, film, photography and audio. The annual residency is open to recently graduated BA or MA artists from any Yorkshire-based university.

Previous winners include Astrid Butt in 2023 who uses animal-human hybrid characters to explore femininity, motherhood and domestication. Influenced by the style of classic David Lynch horror films, during her residency Astrid used YSP's 500-acre parkland to full effect, shooting expansive and atmospheric footage for her new short film.

She explained: *"Getting the Yorkshire Graduate Award has been an incredible opportunity. The time I have spent at the Park has been unforgettable. YSP has given me the opportunity to balance my skills, compensated me for my work and time, and given me a platform to share my art with the public, for which am endlessly thankful."*

- ENDS -

Notes for Editors

Press enquiries

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Download images at yosp.org.uk/press

Listings information

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield WF4 4LG
Near Wakefield and Barnsley – M1 Junction 38
+44 (0)1924 832631 | yosp.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 yosp.org.uk

Social media

Instagram and X: @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 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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