



Press Release

Lesley Barnes and Ross McAuley: Fashion Play

12 July – 26 October 2025

YSP Centre

This summer, collaborators Lesley Barnes and Ross McAuley will present their largest exhibition to date, featuring brand-new fashion-inspired artworks at Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP).

Playful sculptures and large-scale mobiles will feature bold patterns and eye-catching colour combinations. These fashionable characters are joyfully dressed in extravagant headdresses, bulbous skirts, and oversized sleeves. Guaranteed to be a hit with visitors of all ages, *Fashion Play* includes the debut display of the duo's largest mobiles.

This vibrant exhibition will include 33 beautifully designed, handmade wooden sculptures and six mobiles with perfectly contrasting colours, spots and stripes. The one-of-a-kind artworks are all for sale, with prices ranging from £250 to £850.

The YSP Visitor Centre will be adorned with vinyl illustrations and fabric hangings, printed at the internationally renowned Glasgow School of Art. Visitors will be immersed in the world of Barnes and McAuley. Gallery walls will pop with colour, large mobiles hang in the shop window, and sculptures pose on patterned plinths.

Barnes is an illustrator from Glasgow, Scotland, and McAuley is a painter from Toronto, Canada. Together, they collaborate to create sculptural work that explores how form, colour, and shape can dance in space.

Lesley Barnes and Ross McAuley said: *"We were so honoured to be asked to have a show at Yorkshire Sculpture Park as we consider it to be the 'home' of sculpture in the UK. I think it gave us the confidence to develop our small-scale sculptural work and has pushed us to try some new approaches to our practice. 'Fashion Play' represents the largest collection of work we have ever produced for an exhibition. We really wanted to capture the sense of endless possibility and adventure that fashion can offer. We hope our combinations of shapes, colours and pattern leave visitors with a sense of joy."*



Lesley Barnes and Ross McAuley, *Celine, Cece and Serge*, 2025.
Photo © Ross McAuley, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

The exhibition is inspired by Barnes' most recent book, [Fashion Play](#) (Counter-Print Books, 2024), an interactive publication for lovers of fashion, colour and pattern. The book is divided into three sections, allowing readers to playfully mix and match outfits, creating an endless fashion playground.

All works in *Fashion Play* are for sale, with proceeds shared between the artists and YSP. A selection of sustainably sourced pin badges, imaginative magnets, sticker sets and a limited edition print will be available to purchase from [YSP Shops](#), online and onsite.

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

Vinyl signage for *Fashion Play* is generously supported by [ashleigh](#).

- ENDS -



Clockwise: Lesley Barnes and Ross McAuley, *Wanda*; Poncho Pedro, *Anna and Ava*; Rita and Roberto; Kiko and Poppy, all 2025.
Photo © Ross McAuley, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

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

Check online for opening hours

Book tickets at yosp.org.uk

Social media

Instagram: @YSPsculpture

Facebook: @YorkshireSculpturePark

LinkedIn: Yorkshire Sculpture Park

#YSPsculpture

About Lesley Barnes and Ross McAuley

Lesley and Ross live and work in Glasgow with their dog, and muse, Cleo. Lesley works as an illustrator and her distinctive, bright and joyful work spans the worlds of fashion, music, children's literature, film and product design. She has worked with clients such as Apple, Google, The New Yorker and the New York Times, as well as institutions such as Tate and V&A in London. Ross is a painter from Toronto who has lived in Glasgow since 2013. His work has been exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery, the Royal Scottish Academy and Glasgow Print Studio, among others.

About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Awarded VisitEngland's gold accolade in 2023-24 for an outstanding visitor attraction, Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture. Welcoming around 300,000 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, 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 the world 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, Suhasini Kejrival, Kimsooja, Marc Quinn, Hank Willis Thomas 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 galleries and the outdoors. Highlights include exhibitions by Ai Weiwei, Fiona Banner, Anthony Caro, Tony Cragg, Leonardo Drew, Robert Indiana, Amar Kanwar, KAWS, Bharti Kher, Kimsooja, 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 48-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, Roger Evans, the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation, Garfield Weston and the Dunard Fund. YSP was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2014 and awarded the 2023 Visitor Attraction of the Year and Cultural Award in the Yorkshire Post Tourism Awards.



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