Press Release

Yorkshire Sculpture Park renames Underground Gallery The Peter Murray Gallery

17 September 2026

Andy Goldsworthy, Sir Peter Murray and Joe Hill. Photo © David Lindsay, courtesy YSP.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) has renamed its main Underground Gallery The Peter Murray Gallery, in honour of the Park's founder, Sir Peter Murray CBE. The new name was officially unveiled at a special event, attended by artists, supporters and staff of the Park.

The renaming celebrates Sir Peter's transformative leadership since he founded YSP in 1977 with a £1,000 grant, establishing what would become Europe's largest sculpture park and a globally respected centre for modern and contemporary sculpture.

Joe Hill, Director and Chief Executive of Yorkshire Sculpture Park, said:

"Renaming the Underground Gallery The Peter Murray Gallery is a fitting tribute to a visionary who changed the cultural landscape of Yorkshire and the UK.

“Sir Peter’s belief in making art accessible in extraordinary places has shaped everything we do at YSP. This gallery has hosted some of the most ambitious exhibitions in our programme, and carrying his name forward ensures that his legacy continues to inspire artists and audiences for generations to come.”

Acclaimed artist Andy Goldsworthy, who has a long association with YSP and whose work has featured prominently in the Park’s programme, delivered a special address at the unveiling event. **He said:** “The renaming of the Underground Gallery in honour of Sir Peter Murray, who founded YSP in 1977, gives title to the voluminous book that the Park has written over the past 50 years, experienced by all who visit - read with their feet, seen with their eyes and felt in their hearts.”

Born in Middlesbrough, Sir Peter studied Fine Art and Education before becoming Principal Lecturer in Art Education at Bretton Hall College, where he founded Yorkshire Sculpture Park in 1977. His pioneering vision established Britain’s first dedicated sculpture park, introducing a new model for presenting sculpture outdoors and making art accessible beyond traditional museum walls.

Hold to This Earth, installation view at Yorskshire Sculpture Park, 2026. Courtesy of Tia Collection. Photo © India Hobson, courtesy YSP.

For more than 45 years, Sir Peter led YSP from its humble beginnings to an internationally renowned institution that welcomes around 500,000 visitors annually, employs more than 200 people and contributes more than £10 million to the regional economy. He was awarded a CBE and later a knighthood in the 2022 New Year Honours for services to the arts.

Under his leadership, YSP worked with more than 1,000 artists from over 40 countries, championing residencies, major exhibitions and learning programmes that have inspired two generations of artists and creatives.

Set within the 500-acre historic landscape at West Bretton, the Peter Murray Gallery is one of YSP’s four indoor gallery spaces. Opened in the early 2000s, the gallery established itself as a prestigious venue for large-scale, site-responsive exhibitions by leading international artists.

Recent notable exhibitions in the gallery include the current *Hold to This Earth,* the first group exhibition presented in the gallery in 20 years, bringing together more than 60 works by contemporary Indigenous North American artists from Tia Collection; William Kentridge: *The Pull of Gravity*, comprising more than 40 works made between 2007 and 2024; and Bharti Kher: *Alchemies*, a powerful exhibition of sculpture and two-dimensional work by one of the world’s leading contemporary artists.

These exhibitions have reinforced the Gallery’s role as a ground-breaking space for ambitious projects that explore landscape, material and community. Its new name celebrates the vision of the person who made such a space possible, while looking ahead to the next generation of artists and audiences who will get to enjoy and experience YSP as a world-leading contemporary arts space.

Notes for Editors

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Listings information

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Near Wakefield and Barnsley – M1 Junction 38
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Check online for opening hours
Book tickets at ysp.org.uk

Social media

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

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 380,000 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 the largest sculpture park in Europe. Founded in 1977 by Sir Peter Murray CBE it is led by Director Joe Hill. 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 works by Anthony Caro, Vanessa da Silva, Auke de Vries, Elisabeth Frink, Damien Hirst, Henry Moore, Marc Quinn, Ursula von Rydingsvard and Hank Willis Thomas, and site-specific works by Hemali Bhuta, 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 three indoor galleries and the outdoors. Highlights include exhibitions by Fiona Banner, Anthony Caro, Tony Cragg, Leonardo Drew, Robert Indiana, Amar Kanwar, KAWS, William Kentridge, Bharti Kher, Kimsooja, Joan Miró, Henry Moore, Lindsey Mendick, Annie Morris, Giuseppe Penone, Jaume Plensa, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Sean Scully, Chiharu Shiota, Yinka Shonibare CBE, David Smith, Joana Vasconcelos, Bill Viola and Erwin Wurm.

Across its 49-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, The Garfield Weston Foundation 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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