



Press Release

Yorkshire Sculpture Park presents an exhibition exploring human relationships between buildings, landscape and wellbeing

Alison Milner: Decorative Minimalist

27 March – 27 June 2021

YSP Centre

Artist, designer and maker Alison Milner refers to herself as a ‘Decorative Minimalist’ – being inspired by the geometry of nature and by a simple, minimal use of materials. The relationship between nature and the man-made is a key theme in Milner’s work and many of her artworks illustrate landscapes, architecture, nature and wildlife.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park and its 500 acres of historic landscape have heavily influenced Milner’s latest exhibition, opening on 27 March in the YSP Centre. The exhibition explores our relationships between nature and the built environment through her creative use of imagery and materials.

Decorative Minimalist features a large-scale, illustrated tile mural entitled *Walk in the Park*. Designed exclusively for YSP, the mural consists of 160 ceramic tiles that capture the everyday life and soul of Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Yorkshire’s elemental weather, iconic works by Henry Moore and James Turrell, historic architecture such as Bretton Hall and the 18th century chapel, large sculptures being installed, a medley of wildlife by the lakes, and families enjoying a stroll, reinforce Milner’s and YSP’s belief that spending time outdoors surrounded by works of art and nature is good for your mind and body.



Alison Milner, *Walk in the Park*, 2021. Photo © Steve Speller, courtesy YSP.

Working in a wide range of sustainable and natural materials, Milner's chosen mediums are clay, plywood, paper and vitreous enamel, all of which are represented in this new exhibition at YSP. Learning about new materials and extending processes through collaboration with other makers and manufacturers is a key part of her practice. This exhibition sees a collaborative approach with British manufacturing companies, including A.J Wells & Sons, who have an enamelling factory on the Isle of Wight, Digital Ceramic Systems, based in The Potteries in Stoke-on-Trent, and Handprint, a silkscreen print studio in Brighton.

Other works in the exhibition include *My Imaginary Tile Company*. This series of handmade tiles consists of unglazed porcelain, black stoneware and high-fired terracotta in earthy tones and minimalist, geometric patterns. The collection is simply made, using a deliberately limited range of tools and techniques, including rolling, hole punching and slip sgraffito. With a clean, clear and quiet aesthetic, Milner reduces, simplifies and uncovers underlying patterns.

These new works are displayed in the YSP Centre and YSP Shop, together with unique ceramic boxed collages, silkscreen prints on plywood, and bright vitreous enamel panels.

All works in the exhibition are for sale and are accompanied by new ceramic coasters and tiles, porcelain brooches, and nature-inspired posters for sale in the YSP Shop and online at ysp.org.uk/shop

Some details of this exhibition may need to change subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Please check our website for the most up to date information.



Alison Milner, *Leaves & Seeds*, 2020.
Photo © Steve Speller, courtesy YSP.



Alison Milner, *Walk in the Park* ceramic coasters, 2021.
Photo © Steve Speller, courtesy YSP.



Alison Milner, *My Imaginary Tile Company*, 2020.
Photo © Steve Speller, courtesy YSP.

Press enquiries

Svetlana Leu, Sutton: +44 (0)20 7183 3577 / svetlana@suttoncomms.com

Download images at yvsp.org.uk/media

Listings information

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield WF4 4LG

Near Wakefield and Barnsley – M1 Junction 38

+44 (0)1924 832631 | yvsp.org.uk | @YSPsculpture

Open seven days a week, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Booking essential, via yvsp.org.uk

Notes to editors

About Alison Milner

Alison Milner designs and makes ceramic homeware and tiles, furniture and illustrations, from finely-decorated bowls to large-scale murals in parks and public spaces. Milner often explores the relationship between nature and the built environment through work made for domestic settings and public art projects. Her overall aim is to humanise the built environment and help people to feel a connection with the places that they live and work in a subtle and natural way. Whilst working in many different materials, her preference is for the sustainable and natural, such as clay, wood, paper, glass and enamel. Learning about new materials and extending processes through collaboration with other makers and manufacturers is a key part of her practice. Milner graduated from the Royal College of Art with an MA in Furniture Design. Her past clients include Habitat; Royal Doulton; Rathfinny Wine Estate, Sussex; West Dean Gardens, Sussex; Macmillan Cancer Care; West London Mental Health NHS Trust; Golders Hill Park, London; and Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

alisonmilner.com | [@alison_milner](https://www.instagram.com/alison_milner)

About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is one of the finest places in Europe to experience modern and contemporary sculpture in the open air. We host work by some of the world's most well-known artists from Yorkshire-born Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Damien Hirst to Phyllida Barlow, Kalliopi Lemos, Gavin Turk, Ai Weiwei and many other major international and emerging artists across 500 acres of 18th century-designed landscape and six indoor galleries. YSP welcomes around 500,000 visitors every year to enjoy and experience art, heritage and the landscape and each year 40,000 people have contact with our learning programmes. Founded in 1977, YSP is an independent charitable trust and registered museum.

Creative Case for Diversity

Yorkshire Sculpture Park was founded in 1977 to enable fairer cultural access and opportunity and we are committed to being part of change towards a fairer world. We do not tolerate discrimination in any form and are proactive in our programme, policies and behaviours to address inequalities locally, nationally and internationally. We recognise that economic, social and cultural disadvantage is complex and intersectional and shape our activity accordingly. Diversity and equality are crucial to the arts because they release the true potential of our nation's artistic talent – from every background. At YSP, we support Arts Council England's mission – great art and culture for everyone. We share ACE's commitment to promote and embed diversity in our workforce and cultural programme. This is called the 'Creative Case for Diversity'.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park core funders:



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

wakefieldcouncil
working for you

**LIZ AND TERRY
BRAMALL FOUNDATION**

**SAKANA
FOUNDATION**

**ROGER
EVANS**