



Press Release

Rachel Kneebone: 399 Days

Chapel, from 10 July 2021

"I am excited and delighted to be showing 399 Days in the YSP Chapel, a space that resonates in a special way with my work, from the wooden panels of the interior which echo its panelled structure, to the bucolic exterior and landscape, which accentuate its organic forms." Rachel Kneebone

Yorkshire Sculpture Park is delighted to present *399 Days* by Rachel Kneebone (b.1973) in the unique environment of the 18th-century Chapel. The artist's most ambitious sculpture to date, *399 Days* is named after the length of time it took to make, is over five-metres in height and comprises 63 exterior panels. Monumental in scale yet exquisite in detail, it echoes historic sculptures such as *Trajan's Column*, a plaster cast of which is displayed in the sculpture court of the V&A, where *399 Days* was also shown from 2017-2019.

Kneebone's sculptures do not depict the full human form, but allude to the body through the use of a mass of legs appearing to be in motion, often shown in relation to organic forms such as flowers and orbs. Clay, and its more refined form of porcelain, have been used for thousands of years to make objects for the home and for display. Rachel Kneebone has developed her own unique form of sculpture, working primarily in porcelain to create highly complex and delicate objects. Kneebone does not work with assistants but creates each work herself by hand and has grown to accept and appreciate the sometimes unpredictable nature of her chosen material and the firing process: "I am quite reassured when a work explodes because I think that means I am pushing the boundaries of the material. My work moves around metamorphosis, change and simultaneous states, so nothing about it is fixed."

The contemplative space of the Chapel allows for another view of *399 Days* at height from the balcony. Here, drawings from the artist's *Ovid in Exile* (2016) series show different aspects of her practice as well as the relationship between works on paper and sculpture. The series refers to the famous Roman poet Ovid who was banished from Rome in 8 CE, for reasons that have become shrouded in mystery and supposition. Kneebone was drawn to the episode as an insight into the human condition, the creative and destructive impulses. For the YSP exhibition, Kneebone has made new sculptures, where motifs such as tendrils, folds, ribbons and spheres are fluidly interwoven creating a vine-like structure which protrudes from the wall.

The sculpture *Roll* (2017) is shown in the dark-wood panelled vestry. The energetic, organic elements of the sculpture suggest both movement and resistance, amplified by its confined space and in contrast to its static and apparently decaying pedestal. Its tomb-like form and ornate growth resonate with the Chapel as a place that historically marked key life events from the cradle to the grave.

The exhibition is supported by White Cube Gallery and is key in YSP's 2021-22 artistic programme, which is dominated by women artists, and includes Joana Vasconcelos in the Underground Gallery and open air and the Arts Council Collection exhibition *Breaking the Mould: Sculpture by Women since 1945* in Longside Gallery.



Rachel Kneebone, *399 Days*, 2012-13
Porcelain, courtesy European Collection
Photograph © Stephen White, courtesy White Cube



Rachel Kneebone, *Ovid in Exile X*, 2016
Pencil on paper, courtesy the artist and White Cube
Photograph © George Darrell, courtesy White Cube



Rachel Kneebone, *Roll*, 2017
Porcelain, courtesy the artist and White Cube
Photograph © Stephen White, courtesy White Cube

Press enquiries

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Download images at yvsp.org.uk/media

Listings information

Rachel Kneebone: 399 Days

Chapel, from 10 July 2021

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 Rachel Kneebone

Rachel Kneebone was born in 1973 in Oxfordshire and lives and works in London. Recent solo exhibitions include Touchstones, Rochdale, UK (2018); Victoria & Albert Museum, London (2017); White Cube at Glyndebourne, Lewes, UK (2017); The Foundling Museum, London (2017); and Brooklyn Museum, New York (2012). Group exhibitions include Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, Germany (2018); Sculpture in the Close, University of Cambridge, UK (2017); Maison Particulière, Brussels (2016); York Art Gallery, UK (2016); Galleri Anderson Sandstrom, Stockholm (2015); Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht (2015); Freud Museum, London (2014); 1st Kiev Biennale, Ukraine (2012); Deutsches-Hygienes Museum, Dresden, Germany (2012); Busan Biennale, South Korea (2010); Barbican Centre, London (2010); 17th Biennale of Sydney (2010); Royal Academy of Arts, London (2008); Yvon Lambert, New York (2007); and Camden Arts Centre, London (2005). In 2005, Kneebone was nominated for the MaxMara Art Prize.

About White Cube

One of the world's leading contemporary art galleries, White Cube has galleries in London and Hong Kong. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly-acclaimed contemporary artists. whitecube.com | Twitter: @_WhiteCube | Instagram: @WhiteCube

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'.

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