



Press Release

Kate Daudy and Kostya Novoselov: WONDERCHAOS

8 September – 6 October 2021

Bothy Gallery and Open Air

Yorkshire Sculpture Park is delighted to present *WONDERCHAOS*, an exhibition by internationally acclaimed visual artist Kate Daudy and Nobel prize winning physicist, Kostya Novoselov.

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked unimaginable chaos, raising fundamental questions about how we live our lives and how best to build the future. In presenting the art and science exhibition, *WONDERCHAOS*, Daudy and Novoselov invite us to celebrate our individual agency within the unfolding events of the world and embrace the present of our daily existence. Their show invites people of all ages to notice and celebrate the disarray and harmony of daily life and suggests that chaos can sometimes lead to positive change and new ideas.

Together, Daudy and Novoselov pursue an enquiry into chaos, exploring the many circumstances in which chaos reigns and the unexpected, yet inevitable, order that is often born from it. They show how it is the nature of mankind to assign meaning and narrative to the world and create stories to explain the seemingly inexplicable. Chaos can be experienced both individually and universally, something which Daudy and Novoselov encourage us to reflect upon throughout the exhibition. The unfolding of the universe leads us cyclically through chaos to harmony.

WONDERCHAOS presents truths and beliefs held by entire societies that rest upon chaos, such as the Big Bang theory and ancient creation myths. By combining their specialisms, Daudy and Novoselov offer a collection of multi-sensory works that address chaos and its ubiquity in all aspects of life and nature including chaos in relation to art, science, philosophy, harmony, environmental change, language and time.

Many of the works in *WONDERCHAOS* are site specific to Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Roaming throughout the country park, a flock of sheep have each been painted with an individual number; the fleeting moments at which the sheep group in any formation illustrates random number theory. The work is called *ALTERNATIVE RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR: THE SHEEP OF MR. CHARLES PLATTS*.

One of YSP's trees forms the foundation of the sound and movement piece *ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS STAY*, made in collaboration with maker Corin Mellor of David Mellor Design, based in Hathersage, Derbyshire. The repeated but unsystematic tinkling of its chimes calls to mind Pliny's hypothesis that the constant rotation and movement of the air, the earth and the planets in different directions emits a 'sweet harmonious music', as well as the celebrated verses from the Bible's Corinthians I, that remind us of an ancient definition of chaos: 'If I have not love, I am a noisy gong or clanging cymbal. If I have not love, I gain nothing'.

Among the works exhibited indoors are crochet wall hangings demonstrating the chaotic numbers Pi and Euler, resulting in one harmonious whole number – harmony underlying chaos. This work has been specially commissioned from women in Homs and Aleppo, Syria; an example of how beauty can be created

in chaotic circumstances. An installation prints reels of endless questions and numbers issued by The National Institute of Standards and Technology, USA.

A film and sound piece by Daudy feature cellist Steven Isserlis and Joanna Bergin performing an adaptation of John Tavener's great piece *The Lamb* to a flock of numbered sheep. The work is entitled *IF YOU WANT TO HEAR SOME MUSIC, OPEN THE WINDOW: HOMAGE TO JOHN CAGE*. Daudy is also presenting her first large-scale outdoor steel sculpture, *PORTAL*, which has been made at YSP. The sculpture explores the significance of language as a tool of communication with other cultures and perspectives, suggesting that dialogue can provide a doorway to alternative worlds. The pair have also produced a conceptual map of YSP entitled *THE CERTAINTY OF CHANCE*.

The show is accompanied by the eight-part podcast *WONDERCHAOS*, available to listen to on YSP's profile on the [Bloomberg Connects app](#), and on [Apple podcasts](#).

Kate Daudy is a British artist working in sculpture, installation, textiles and words. She is recognised for her work exploring and re-evaluating the human experience in the context of the natural world. She is interested in using visual art as a means of bringing about discourse that can contribute toward social and political change. Daudy's work frequently references ancient societies' culture, beliefs and languages; her written interventions stem from her studies of Ancient Chinese literati practice and, more recently, her art has been influenced by Ancient Egyptian thought and ideas surrounding the cycle of life.

With a history of collaborating with artists, Russian physicist Kostya Novoselov has been working with Daudy for the past three years, including on their ongoing project *Everything is Connected*. Novoselov was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2010 for his work with Professor Andre Geim in discovering graphene, the strongest and thinnest material in existence.

-Ends-

Notes for Editors

For this exhibition, Kate Daudy has worked with YSP's tenant farmer Mr Charles Platts to assign numbers to his flock of sheep. The paint used is organic and non-toxic and the process has been overseen by Mr Platts. No animals have been or will be harmed in any way in this exhibition.



Photo © Catherine Wingfield Photography

Press enquiries

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Download images at ysp.org.uk/media

Listings information

Kate Daudy and Kostya Novoselov: *WONDERCHAOS*

8 September – 6 October 2021

Bothy Gallery and Open Air

Open daily, 10am-5pm

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield WF4 4LG

Near Wakefield and Barnsley – M1 Junction 38

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

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

Booking essential, via ysp.org.uk

About Kate Daudy

Daudy is a London-based visual artist recognised for her work exploring and re-evaluating the human experience in the context of the natural world. Known for her written interventions in public and private spaces, Daudy's work is based on an ancient Chinese literati practice. Although disruptive, her work is full of optimism; current world circumstances seem dire, but the future remains in our hands. Previous highlights include exhibitions for Saatchi Gallery, South Bank Centre and St Paul's Cathedral in London. Globally, Daudy has exhibited in Granada, Madrid, New York, Palermo, Paris and Jordan.

katedaudy.com | @katedaudy #Wonderchaos

About Kostya Novoselov

Novoselov is a physicist best known for his ground-breaking experiments on graphene, the strongest and thinnest material in existence. The material consists of a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice. The achievement earned Professors Andre Geim and Kostya Novoselov the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2010. Interested in modern art, Prof Novoselov has also collaborated with artists Mary Griffiths and Cornelia Parker. He was knighted in the 2012 New Year Honours.

@kostyanovoselov #Wonderchaos

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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