

Release date: Tuesday May 14

## **WORLD-FAMOUS ARTIST SWAPPING NEW YORK FOR WAKEFIELD**

A world-famous artist will be swapping New York for Wakefield city centre as part of a major sculpture festival this summer.

Huma Bhabha (b.1962 Karachi, Pakistan, lives in Poughkeepsie, New York, USA) is creating a new sculpture which will be installed outside Wakefield Council's County Hall near Wakefield College for three months.

It's all part of the free to see Yorkshire Sculpture International – the UK's biggest sculpture festival this year – and backed by Wakefield Council, Wakefield College, Arts Council England and Leeds 2023.

In 2018, the artist installed "We Come in Peace" on the roof of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, overlooking the famous Manhattan skyline and her new sculpture for Wakefield will go on display from 22 June to late September this year.

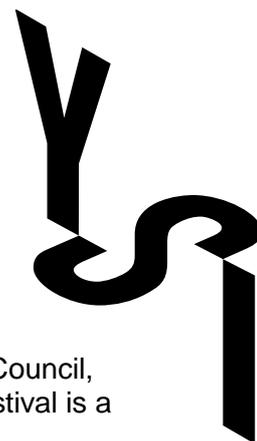
This summer's event is being presented by four world-class art galleries which make up the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle - The Hepworth Wakefield, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, The Henry Moore Institute and Leeds Art Gallery – who are collaborating to present a sculpture festival featuring major new commissions and exhibitions at each of the four partner venues and sculpture outdoors in Leeds and Wakefield.

Huma Bhabha said: "It's always exciting to create something new for a landscape I have never worked in before. I approach all my work with the intention of making it intense, and everything else will fall into place."

Cast in bronze to stand outdoors 'Receiver' 2019 is a human like form which began as a sculpture carved from everyday materials including Styrofoam and cork. Almost all the artist's work is figurative. She is inspired by science fiction and how it relates to actual events, alongside ancient vocabularies and artists including Picasso and Giacometti. Bhabha's fascination with collage began when she was very young which has continued with a lifelong curiosity about different materials and the tactile challenges of making sculpture. Huma Bhabha's figurative sculptures have a timeless quality and appear to make connections between histories, languages and civilisations.

She added: "I don't find my figures unsettling – quite the opposite as I feel they are comforting and friendly. Sculpture should challenge, and also be available to all with art outdoors in the public realm making an important contribution to this debate. I hope people in Wakefield and beyond enjoy my new work positioned in Wakefield's civic quarter."

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Cllr Jacquie Speight, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport at Wakefield Council, said: “Wakefield is internationally-known for its contribution to sculpture and the festival is a great opportunity for residents and visitors to come to our city and experience this fascinating form of art.

“The outdoor Huma Bhabha sculpture coming to Wakefield has been described as challenging and thought-provoking, and is likely to get people talking and thinking about art and what it means to them. I’d encourage everyone to head in to Wakefield city centre and see it first hand before exploring the rest of the festival across the galleries.”

Lisa Macdonald, Executive Director for Curriculum of Wakefield College, said: “Part of our passion is giving our students opportunities that they could not get elsewhere in order to educate and inspire to them, which is why we are backing Yorkshire Sculpture International. Sculpture is part of the fabric of this city and provides the building blocks for education and inspiration for our ambitious students. The stories of the sculptors themselves often show how anyone with a passion for art can follow their dreams. Who knows, this may be the catalyst for the next Hepworth or Moore from right here in Wakefield.”

Jane Bhoyroo, Producer of Yorkshire Sculpture International, said: “We are delighted to have the backing of Wakefield Council, Wakefield College, Leeds 2023 and Arts Council England who are playing a part in making Yorkshire Sculpture International a reality, enabling us to commission internationally renowned artists to make new work in Yorkshire as well as supporting activity working with local communities and artists across the region to create sculpture. We look forward to celebrating the festival through the exhibitions and public programme and hope to encourage curiosity, debate and discussion about sculpture.”

To find out more about the festival see [www.yorkshire-sculpture.org](http://www.yorkshire-sculpture.org)

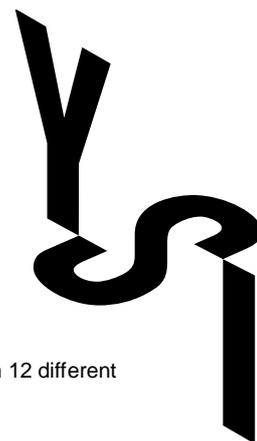
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## **ABOUT YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE INTERNATIONAL**

Yorkshire Sculpture International – a free, 100-day festival taking place across Yorkshire from 22 June until 29 September 2019 – will feature new public commissions in Leeds and Wakefield and a programme of events and exhibitions across the four world-renowned galleries that form Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle – Henry Moore Institute, Leeds Art Gallery, The Hepworth Wakefield and Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The inaugural edition will be the UK’s largest dedicated sculpture festival and builds on Yorkshire’s rich history as the birthplace of pioneering sculptors, including Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, and as the home of this unique consortium of galleries and celebrated sculpture collections.

Reflecting a provocation by British artist Phyllida Barlow that ‘*sculpture is the most anthropological of the artforms*’ the festival will respond to the idea that there is a basic human impulse to make and connect with objects. The programme will explore what it means to create sculpture today, around the globe, and in Yorkshire. Showcasing the breadth and diversity of contemporary sculpture practice, the artists participating in YSI challenge what we understand as sculpture, making sense of

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the world and its political, environmental and social dimensions. The partner programme will feature 16 artists from 12 different countries.

Yorkshire Sculpture International 2019 is curated by Andrew Bonacina (Chief Curator, The Hepworth Wakefield), Sarah Brown (Principal Keeper, Leeds Art Gallery), Clare Lilley (Director of Programme, Yorkshire Sculpture Park) and Laurence Sillars (Head of the Henry Moore Institute), Jane Bhoyroo (Producer, Yorkshire Sculpture International) and Meghan Goodeve (Engagement Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture International).

Yorkshire Sculpture International has raised more than £1.5 million, including a National Lottery funded Ambition for Excellence grant from Arts Council England and regional investment from Leeds 2023, Wakefield Council, Leeds Beckett University and the University of Leeds.

[yorkshire-sculpture.org](http://yorkshire-sculpture.org)

## **THE HENRY MOORE INSTITUTE**

The Henry Moore Institute welcomes everyone to experience, study and enjoy sculpture. Open seven days a week, the Institute is free to all. It is an international research centre located in the vibrant city of Leeds, where Henry Moore began his training as a sculptor. In its iconic building it hosts a year-round changing programme of historical, modern and contemporary exhibitions presenting sculpture from across the world. Each year it hosts over a hundred powerful discussions, bringing the brightest thinkers together to share ideas. The Institute is a hub for sculpture, connecting a global network of artists and scholars. As a part of the Henry Moore Foundation, an independent arts charity, it is the Institute's mission to bring people together to think about why sculpture matters.

[henry-moore.org/visit/henry-moore-institute](http://henry-moore.org/visit/henry-moore-institute)

## **LEEDS ART GALLERY**

Leeds Art Gallery offers dynamic temporary exhibitions and a world-class collection of modern British art. Founded in 1888, the gallery has designated collections of 19th and 20th century British art widely considered to be the best outside the national collections. The collection represents the development of English modernism shown through key works by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Jacob Epstein. Leeds Art Gallery through a partnership with the Henry Moore Institute, has built one of the strongest collections of British sculpture in the country and confirmed Leeds's status as an international centre for the study and appreciation of sculpture. The Leeds Sculpture Collection comprises over 1,000 objects, 400 works on paper and the Henry Moore Institute Archive of over 270 collections of papers relating to sculptors.

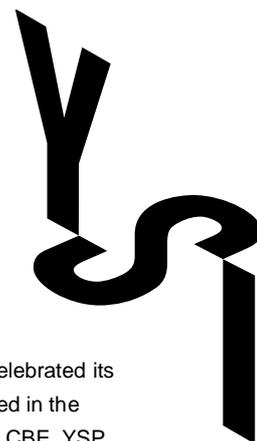
[leeds.gov.uk/artgallery](http://leeds.gov.uk/artgallery)

## **THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD**

Designed by the acclaimed David Chipperfield Architects, The Hepworth Wakefield is set within Wakefield's historic waterfront, overlooking the River Calder. The gallery opened in May 2011 and was awarded Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017. Named after Barbara Hepworth, one of the most important artists of the 20th century who was born and brought up in Wakefield, the gallery presents major exhibitions of the best international modern and contemporary art. It is also home to Wakefield's art collection – an impressive compendium of modern British and contemporary art – and has dedicated galleries exploring Hepworth's art and working process. In summer 2019, The Hepworth Wakefield Garden will open alongside the gallery. Designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, it will feature sculptures and be one of the largest free public gardens in the UK.

[hepworthwakefield.org](http://hepworthwakefield.org)

# YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE INTERNATIONAL



## YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2017 and welcomes half a million visitors each year. An independent charitable trust it is situated in the 500-acre, 18th-century Bretton Hall estate in West Yorkshire. Founded in 1977 by Executive Director Peter Murray CBE, YSP was the first sculpture park in the UK, and is the largest of its kind in Europe, providing 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, and site-specific works by Andy Goldsworthy, David Nash, Alfredo Jaar and James Turrell. YSP was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2014.

[yvsp.org.uk](http://yvsp.org.uk)

## ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, Arts Council England will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

[artscouncil.org.uk](http://artscouncil.org.uk)

A festival produced by Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle:



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ART  
GALLERY

THE  
HEPWORTH  
WAKEFIELD



Yorkshire Sculpture Park



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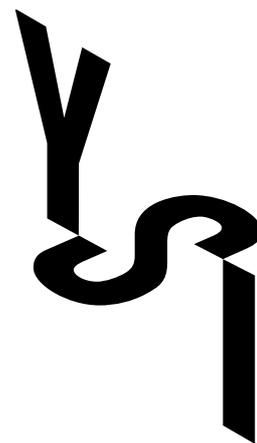
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