



Media release

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

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ISAMU NOGUCHI

AT YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK.



Underground Gallery, Garden Gallery + open air. 18 July 2008 - 22 February 2009

I don't think that art comes from art... I think it comes from the awakening person. Isamu Noguchi.

The first major European exhibition of work by Isamu Noguchi opens at Yorkshire Sculpture Park on 18 July 2008. Organised in close collaboration with The Noguchi Museum, New York, **Isamu Noguchi at Yorkshire Sculpture Park** encompasses over 150 works spanning the artist's extraordinary career, as well as select pieces from The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum, Mure, never before shown outside of Japan.

One of the great artists of the 20th century, Noguchi created a significant and influential body of work. This exhibition illustrates the full range and development of his work, from magnificent stone carvings ranging in size from small interior works to large-scale sculptures sited in the open air, alongside important designs, models, drawings, furniture and works on paper.

YSP's award-winning Underground Gallery will document Noguchi's early figurative sculpture, abstractions made during his time as Brancusi's assistant in Paris, works in mixed media, and his celebrated set designs for the Martha Graham Dance Company, represented by a rich selection of twenty studies on paper, as well as numerous components of the sets.

Also installed in the Underground Gallery will be models and drawings for some of the artist's famed public spaces, including the United Nations Playground, fourteen large stone sculptures, and several bronzes from 1962 to 1985.

During his later years, Noguchi worked primarily in stone, particularly hard basalt and granite boulders. This work will be represented through beautiful carvings indoors and in the landscape. The large-scale, multipart sculpture **To Darkness** (1965-66); **Sun at Midnight** (1973), a granite sculpture with a large void at its centre; and **Age** (1981), a six-foot-high, textural work in basalt, will help transform the Park's elegant historic landscaped gardens and terraces into a space of calm and contemplation.

In the Garden Gallery, **Noguchi and Iconic Designers** will focus on Noguchi's innovative furniture and design from early design classics such as his glass topped **Coffee Table**, elegantly resting on sculpted wooden supports and **Cylinder Lamp** designed in 1944 through to the **Prismatic Table**. A selection of work by other design icons, many of whom were influenced by, or collaborated with Noguchi, will include pieces by Charles and Ray Eames, George Nelson, Frank Gehry and Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec. **All work is manufactured by Vitra and available to purchase.**

A dramatic display of Noguchi's **Akari** light sculptures in the Visitor Centre's long concourse will welcome visitors to the exhibition. Noguchi created more than 100 **Akari** models, many of which are still in production half a century later. The YSP display will feature lights of various forms and sizes, including a globe six feet in diameter.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park is one of the few places in the world able to provide the gallery and landscape context to fully appreciate the breadth and diversity of Isamu Noguchi's work. An associated YSP publication with statements by Noguchi and texts by Bonnie Rychlak (The Noguchi Museum, New York) and Peter Murray (Yorkshire Sculpture Park) will be available.

Editor's Notes

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