



## Sophie Ryder at Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Open air and Longside Gallery 24 May – 2 November 2008

Press view: Thursday 22 May

Sophie Ryder's association with YSP began in 1986 with a residency immediately after graduating from the RA Schools. Now an internationally acclaimed artist, this significant exhibition provides an opportunity to examine her work and presents powerful sculpture made in the last decade alongside new pieces, large drawings in wire and works on paper.

Ryder's work examines the human condition through anthropomorphic and dream imagery, combining animal and human forms, attitudes and instincts. She expresses emotion and sexuality within the female or mother figure (as in the **Lady-Hare**) and reveals her relationship to the child, the dog and the minotaur, which is the antithesis of the female persona or spirit of the hare. Sophie herself is the model for her sculpture and drawing; she takes attitudes and poses from her own body which are repeatedly drawn and made in wire and bronze in an attempt to respond to the world she inhabits.

Longside Gallery features Ryder's stunning wire wall drawings; dislocated images of eyes, hands and feet, alongside large free-standing wire sculptures, through which visitors can walk. In the open air, monumental wire works and a series of bronzes continue to explore Ryder's iconic themes: the lady-hare, minotaur, and dog. **Eye**, a large-scale wire work, is dramatically suspended against the landscape and sky on the walking route to Longside. This exhibition creates a dialogue between indoor and outdoor; an exploratory journey of dramatic work, which closely references the history and life of the land.

A catalogue with images of work in situ and text by poet and critic, Sue Hubbard, accompanies the exhibition.



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### Editor's Notes

Press view: Thursday 22 May 2008. Please contact Anna Neville on 01924 832633 or [anna.neville@yosp.co.uk](mailto:anna.neville@yosp.co.uk) for further details.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, near Wakefield, is an independent art gallery, accredited museum and charity. Registered charity number 1067908. Yorkshire Sculpture Park receives funding from: Arts Council England, Wakefield MDC, The Henry Moore Foundation and West Yorkshire Grants (a joint committee of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield Councils). [www.yosp.co.uk](http://www.yosp.co.uk)