



Media release

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

January 2009. For immediate release

For further press enquiries:

Eleanor Bryson
t. 01924 832642
eleanor.bryson@yvsp.co.uk
www.yvsp.co.uk

Rebecca Chesney: Bee Project

YSP Upper Space and landscape, from 6 March 2010

Bank Holiday event, 3 May 2010

'It is generally held that one in three mouthfuls of the food that we eat is bee pollinated and bees likewise play an immeasurable part in providing food for our wildlife. Colony losses thus have a significant impact on food production and sustainability.'

British Beekeepers' Association report, January 2009

From 6 March the artist Rebecca Chesney will begin a year long residency at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, researching the bees and plants of the Bretton Estate to develop new work. From her base in the nature reserve, Chesney will document different types of bees on site and make maps of their journeys around YSP, linked to current and historic planting schemes of the estate. With the help of experts and visitors, Chesney's residency will draw attention to the plight of bees which are under great threat: a fifth of all honeybees in the UK were lost in 2008/9 and their disappearance would be catastrophic.

Working with the Wakefield Beekeepers Association, Chesney will introduce two colonies and an observation hive which will be the focus of free workshops, tours and talks all day on 3 May, Bank Holiday Monday. For further details and booking information visit www.yvsp.co.uk

Throughout the residency, everyone is invited to participate during their visit by using bee identification cards and making bee promises – to plant something at home that will attract bees - in exchange for a limited edition pin badge. A display in the Upper Space of the YSP Centre will feature examples of Chesney's work, which includes pressed specimens, intricate pencil drawings and photography alongside information on bees and planting, and a virtual hive for visitors to explore.

Rebecca Chesney is a Preston based artist who has exhibited her work in Salford, County Durham, Rome, Boston Massachusetts and at the Liverpool Biennial. Her work looks at changing environments and human activity, and previous residencies have resulted in exhibitions of drawings, photographs, installations and films. During her YSP residency, Chesney will reference the cultural significance of bees and how their behaviour has been used as a metaphor for a great number of human activities, from religious belief to political ideology.

Apian-inspired art dates back thousands of years and can be seen in music, notably in the Flight of the Bumblebee by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. The highly influential German visual and performance artist Joseph Beuys, was particularly interested in the organisational systems of bees and created works using honey and beeswax. The Catalan architect Antonio Gaudí used the bee both decoratively and structurally, inspired by the inner chambers produced in the hive, and the poet Sylvia Plath wrote a series of bee poems which are included in her seminal work, Ariel.

Notes to Editors:

As an independent art gallery, accredited museum and registered charity (number 1067908), YSP's core work is made possible by investment from Arts Council England, Wakefield Council, The Henry Moore Foundation and West Yorkshire Grants.



Dead Bee. Again and Again, 2008

In partnership with

The **co-operative**
membership 