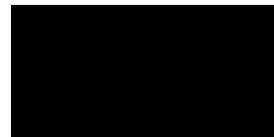




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# From Turner to Hockney

Gillian Smallwood on the exhibition that features some of Yorkshire's greatest artists both past and present

**Y**orkshire has inspired many great artists, and an intriguing selection of their work is being showcased in an exhibition which celebrates the Grand Départ of the Tour de France.

'Art and Yorkshire: From Turner to Hockney', at the Mercer Gallery, in Harrogate, is part of the Yorkshire Festival of cultural events. The show highlights the county's influence on some of the world's finest artists, and features historic, modern and contemporary visual art, with more than 100 paintings, photographs and sculptures.

It cleverly places past masters and contemporary artists together. There are paintings by JMW Turner, work by two of the greatest sculptors of the 20th century Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, and I-Pad art by David Hockney.

When Joseph Mallord William Turner spent eight weeks on a sketching tour of the North in 1797 the beauty of

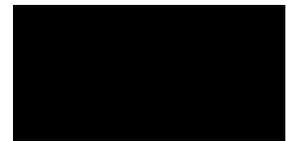
Yorkshire's landscape is said to have moved him to tears. One of the drawings he made was of Knaresborough Castle, and his watercolour painting of the castle is on display together with some of his sketches. He loved the dramatic changes in the county's weather, and they influenced some of his great atmospheric paintings.

Turner's contemporary, Thomas Girtin, made his own tour of the North, and although he died tragically young, aged just 29, he produced some beautiful and accomplished paintings of Yorkshire including one of the river Wharfe.

A very recent painting that captures the drama of the Yorkshire landscape is Katharine Holmes's 'Malham Limestone' (2010-11). She is the third generation of a family of women artists to live in the village of Malham – her mother and grandmother lived in the same house before her – and she knows the Malhamdale landscape in every detail. ►



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Along with the stunning Yorkshire landscape, the exhibition explores other themes including the Yorkshire coast, city and industry and its people.

Atkinson Grimshaw took his family to Scarborough for health reasons after three of his children died and 'Scarborough Lights' is one of his atmospheric moonlit paintings. From the 1880s Mark Senior, the English Impressionist who was born in West Yorkshire, spent every spring and summer studying the coastal communities and one of his paintings captures a day at the beach at Runswick Bay.

Yorkshire's cities and its industries are seen through the eyes of Peter Watson, the internationally famous war photographer Don McCullin, John Piper, Charles Ginner and others.

Peter Watson's painting of New Stubbin Colliery, near Rawmarsh, Rotherham depicts the mine the year before it closed, surrounded by cornfields, and Don McCullin's images of South Yorkshire in the 1960s capture dark views of the industrial North. Less sombre is John Piper's colourful, abstract view of Halifax.

Leeds-born author, actor, playwright and screenwriter Alan Bennett features among Yorkshire's people, and there's also Princess Mary, Countess of Harewood, portrayed as an elegant country lady. There's room too for more working class subjects with Frederick Elwell's painting of an anonymous young woman sitting on a bar-stool.

The choice of artwork in the exhibition includes art that was made in Yorkshire, and also art made by Yorkshire-born artists in diverse and contrasting locations.

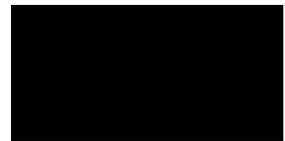
'I've worked with art in Yorkshire for a long time and in all sorts of different ways,' said Jane Sellars, Curator of Art and Acting Manager of Culture for Harrogate Borough Council, who has curated the exhibition.



## The Yorkshire coast, its cities, industry and people are all featured

'It's inevitable that I am drawn to certain subjects, the moors around Haworth, for example, with those wild skies. The Brontes have certainly left their romantic mark on my visual sense of the West Yorkshire landscape. At the same time I love all the new work going on, such as Katharine Holmes's emotive landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales, Myles Linley's powerful chalk drawings of Hull and Jake Attree's paintings of York.'

The exhibition is proving to be very popular with over 200 visitors a day, and up to 500 a day at the weekend, and one of the works that's caught the imagination of visitors, especially youngsters, is an I-Pad interpretation of tulips by Britain's most internationally famous contemporary artist, David Hockney. ►



Throughout his career, Bradford-born Hockney has experimented with many different forms of art, constantly taking up new forms of technology. On a grey day in January 1983 he went with his mother and a friend to visit friends at Ponden Hall near Haworth, (believed to be the inspiration for Thrushcross Grange in Emily Bronte's 'Wuthering Heights'). Here he snapped a series of images to create a photo-collage of the group in a unique response to 'Bronte Country'.

In complete contrast, the exhibition also features several of the works he made when he moved to the sunnier climes of California.

\* *Art and Yorkshire: From Turner to Hockney is at the Mercer Art Gallery, Swan Road, Harrogate until 12 October. Admission is free and opening times are Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm.*

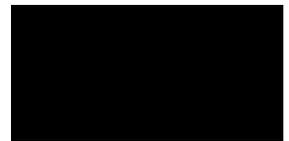
\* *Jane Sellars has written a book 'Art and Yorkshire: From Turner to Hockney' with a preface by Alan Bennett. It's published by Great Northern Books, £20.* ■

## Art and Yorkshire events

- A Yorkshire Artist's Home, Thursday 19 June (9.45am-3pm). Visit to the home of artist Katharine Holmes to talk about three generations of artists with objects to show and art on display. Cost £14. Depart/return, Mercer Art Gallery.
- Hockney and Saltaire, Wednesday 16 July (9.30am-3.30pm). Visit to Saltaire to explore the history of the World Heritage Site through a costumed guided walk, and discover the Hockney paintings on show at Salts Mill. Cost £12.50. Depart/return, Mercer Art Gallery.
- Barbara Hepworth: From Yorkshire to St Ives, Thursday 17 July (2pm). Talk exploring the connections between the artists' colony of St Ives and Yorkshire and the landscape that inspired her work. Free event, Mercer Art Gallery.
- Visit to Coldstone Cut, Wednesday 6 August (10am). A chance to visit Yorkshire's biggest and highest public art work, designed by Andrew Sabin. Free event (donations to Nidderdale Visual Arts welcome).
- Workshop with Yorkshire artist Jake Attree, Saturday 9 August (10am-4pm). Cost £25, Mercer Art Gallery.
- Atkinson Grimshaw gallery talk, Wednesday 27 August (2pm). Curator Jane Sellars looks at Grimshaw's paintings of Scarborough and Ingleborough. Free event, Mercer Gallery.
- The Life and Work of Mark Senior, Wednesday 10 September (2pm). Andrew Clay, Director of the Woodend Creative in Scarborough and great-great-grandson of Senior, gives a unique family perspective on the artist. Cost £3, Mercer Art Gallery.
- Visit to Farnley Hall, Wednesday 17 September (12.45-4.15pm). JMW Turner visited Farnley Hall, on the outskirts of Otley for the best part of 25 years, and his paintings were inspired by the Wharfedale scenery. Cost £18. Depart/return Mercer Art Gallery.

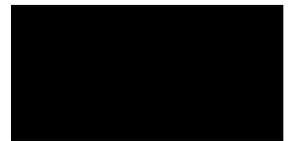
**All events, including those that are free should be booked in advance by phone on 01423 556188, email [museums@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:museums@harrogate.gov.uk) or in person at the Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate.**

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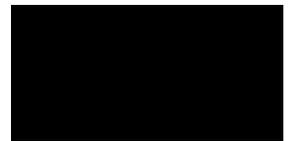


**Above:** 'New Stubbin Colliery' (1977), Peter Watson. Photo credit: On loan courtesy of the Trustees of the National Coal Mining Museum for England. © The Artist **Below left:** 'Livingroom & Terrace' (July 1986). Home made print on two sheets of paper (17x11" each). Edition 60. 17x22" overall. © David Hockney **Below centre:** 'Afternoon Swimming' (1980). Lithograph. Edition 55. 31 3/4x39 1/2". © David Hockney/Tyler Graphics Ltd **Below right:** 'Halifax No 2' (c. 1961), John Piper. Photo Credit: Calderdale Museums and Arts. © John Piper Estate

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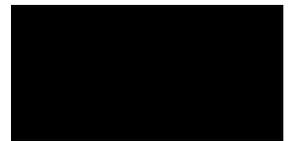


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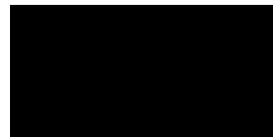
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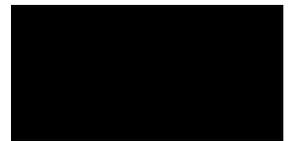
**Top left:** 'Knaresborough Castle' (c. 1797-8), JMW Turner. © Gloucester City Museum & Art Gallery  
**Top right:** 'Montcalm Interior at Seven O'Clock' (1988). Oil on canvas. 36x48". © David Hockney  
**Above left:** 'In the Bar' (c. 1943), Frederick Elwell. Photo credit: Ferens Art Gallery, Hull Museums. © Elwell Estate  
**Above right:** 'Runswick Bay' (1920), Mark Senior © Photo: University of Leeds Art Collection/Norman Taylor

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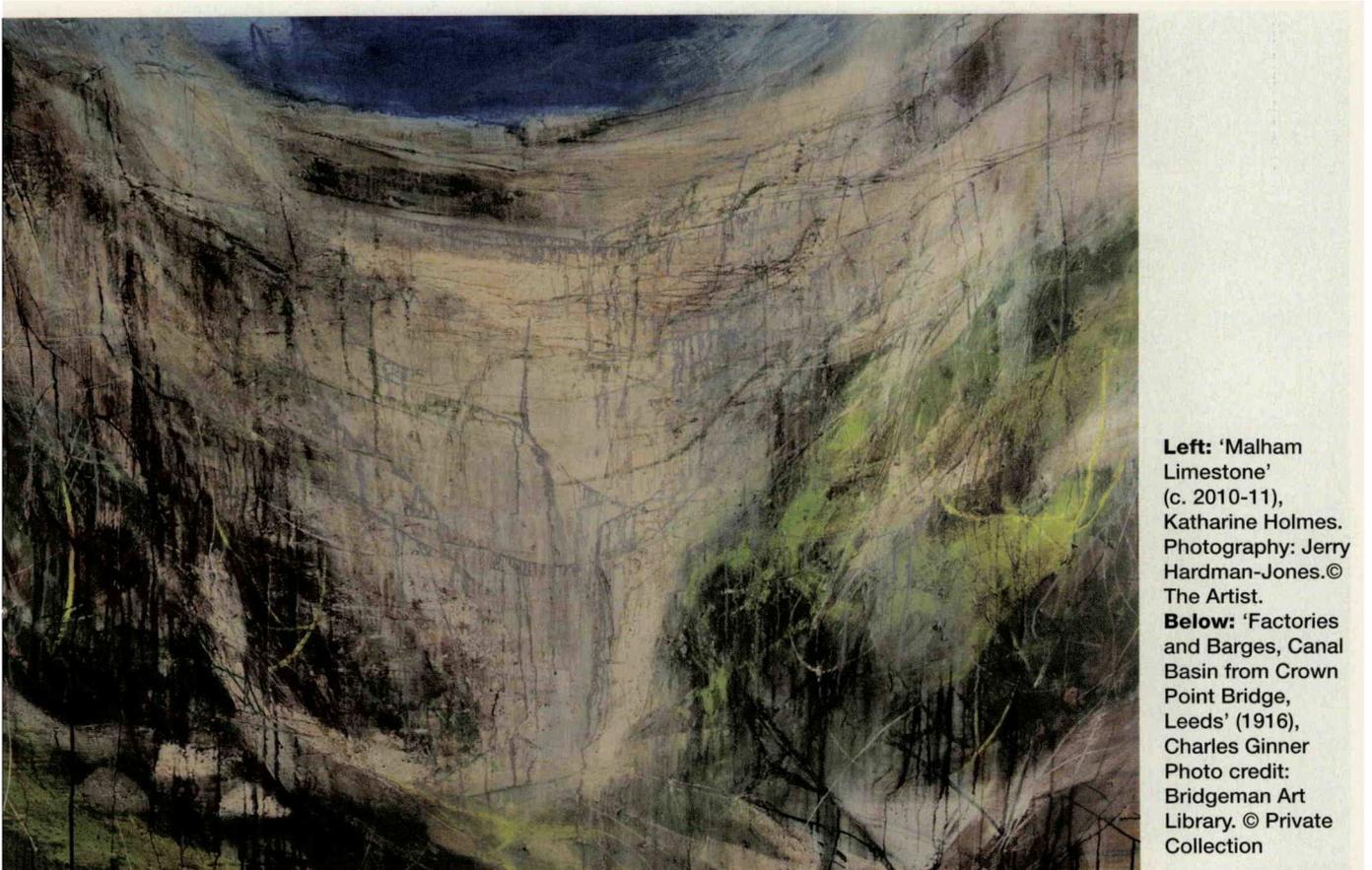
**Above:** 'Ponden Hall' ('Thrushcross Grange') Haworth, Yorkshire (January 1983). Photographic Collage.  
Edition: 10/10. 49x64". © David Hockney

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**Above:** 'The River Wharfe' (c.1800), Thomas Girtin. © Private Collection

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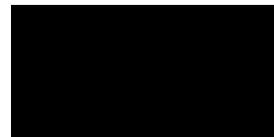
**Left:** 'Malham Limestone' (c. 2010-11), Katharine Holmes. Photography: Jerry Hardman-Jones. © The Artist.  
**Below:** 'Factories and Barges, Canal Basin from Crown Point Bridge, Leeds' (1916), Charles Ginner. Photo credit: Bridgeman Art Library. © Private Collection

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**Left:** 'Alan Bennett' (1993), Tom Wood.  
© National Portrait Gallery, London  
**Below:** 'Scarborough Lights' (1875), Atkinson Grimshaw.  
© Scarborough Museums Trust

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