



Monday October 5th ·
Claire Wellesley-Smith –
Textile Artist

Claire Wellesley-Smith is an artist, researcher and writer based in Bradford. She delivers long-term socially engaged arts and heritage-based projects with community and care-focused organisations, with a particular emphasis on working alongside underserved communities. The ability of textile to transform and connect over time informs her studio, community and research practices.

<https://www.clairewellesleysmith.co.uk/>

 @cwellesleysmith

Monday November 2nd ·
Rose Ferraby – Archaeologist and artist

Dr Rose Ferraby's work explores our relationships with landscapes through time. She is interested in how creative practice can be used to communicate subtle understandings of archaeology to wider audiences. She works across painted collage, printmaking, illustration, film and sound, and has been commissioned by projects and organisations including the British Museum and Ulster Museum, and she has curated *Downland* at the Wiltshire Museum. Rose also works on nature recovery projects.

<https://roseferraby.com/>



Monday December 7th ·
Megan Barnett – Stained glass artist and conservator

Megan is an independent stained glass artist and conservator based in York. She collaborates with other independent conservators to support each other with larger projects. In this talk she will explore some highlights from recent projects. "I combine rigorous historical research and technical knowledge with skilled craftsmanship and a strong design sense to produce work which is pleasing in any context, including new designs and installations for customers as well as historic glass."

<https://www.woodsidestainedglass.co.uk> and on Woodside Stained Glass Facebook page

This meeting will also include a brief AGM and our usual pre-Christmas buffet supper. Everyone welcome!

Welcome to York ArtWorkers

We exist to extend and share our knowledge and experience through a programme of monthly talks at Southlands Methodist Church, Bishopthorpe Road, YO23 1NX.

Doors open at 7pm, meetings begin at 7.30pm.

We welcome anyone with an interest in the Arts.

Membership costs £22pa and there is an admission charge of £3 for members and £7 for non-members. We do have a discount of £14 membership for full time students.

For news, events and more information...

www.yorkartworkers.org.uk

 @yorkartworkers

facebook.com/yorkartworkers

www.yorkartworkers.org.uk

YORK ART WORKERS ASSOCIATION



2026 Programme

Monday January 5th • Mini Talks

A series of short talks from York Art Workers themselves – this evening gives members an opportunity to share their own skills, ideas and passions. Please come along and see what inspires us, or tell just what inspires you or what you have been up to recently! (Open to anyone whether a member or not).

Monday February 2nd • Tony Ovenell – Ceramics



"I have been fortunate not to need to make a living from ceramics. For me potting has always been play – an antidote to the stresses of study or work. I enjoy the challenges of making and take pleasure in creating objects people enjoy. I am interested in form, not function, and mostly make small thrown porcelain pots with no purpose other than to please the senses. It still fascinates me that materials, which look so unpromising, can be transformed into objects which bring pleasure."

<https://www.northern-potters.co.uk/artists/ovenell-tony/>

Monday March 2nd • Belinda May – Puppeteer

Belinda May is a Leeds based puppet maker and performer whose practice includes wood carving, textiles and drawing. Her current show, Workhouse Stories, is an imaginative look at people who lived or worked in Leeds Union Workhouse in the 1880s.

Belinda and her puppets will reveal how the processes of making and social history research are combined to tell stories.

<https://www.facebook.com/BelindaMayPuppets>

<https://www.beverleypuppetfestival.com/events/workhouse-stories>



Monday April 13th • Andrian Melka – Sculptor

Andrian is a British-Albanian figurative sculptor. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Tirana and was schooled in the socialist realist tradition. He found inspiration in the rich heritage of classical and Renaissance sculpture and is best known for his figurative work in marble and stone. Andrian will talk about his work to date and share his approach to modelling in clay when creating bronze and ceramic figurative sculptures in comparison with carving in stone and marble.

 @melkasculpture

www.melkasculpture.com



Monday May 11th • Richard Kitchen and Friends – Navigator Art/Festival of ideas/ painter



Richard is a York-based visual artist, writer and curator who co-founded local collective Navigators Art in 2019, while working for an MA in Fine Art at York St John University. His creative path follows four distinct but intertwined routes: mixed media collage making; digital exploration of visual material; writing poetry; and devising exhibitions and performance events with Navigators.

<https://linktr.ee/richardkitchen>

Monday June 1st • Outing to Thin Ice Press, Peasholme Green, York (Members only)

"We started our journey in 2017, when we founded our on-campus letterpress teaching and research studio. In 2024, we moved to a permanent home in a beautiful historic venue.

Nestled in the tranquil St Anthony's Garden, just opposite The Dispensary and overlooked by the City walls, this pressroom, museum and gallery brings together historic presses, centuries-old techniques, and a community working to ensure an endangered craft and skills thrive for years to come. Our goal is to secure the future of traditional printing, not just preserving the past but bringing it to life."

<https://www.thinicepress.org/>



Monday July 6th • David Mayne – Sculpture

David Mayne is celebrated for his evocative representations of nature and wildlife. Working primarily with steel and wood, he crafts sculptures that capture the essence of animals and landscapes, often incorporating elements like trees, birds, and woodland creatures. His pieces range from small-scale works suitable for domestic settings to

large public art installations, all reflecting a deep connection to the natural world.

 @david_mayne_sculptor

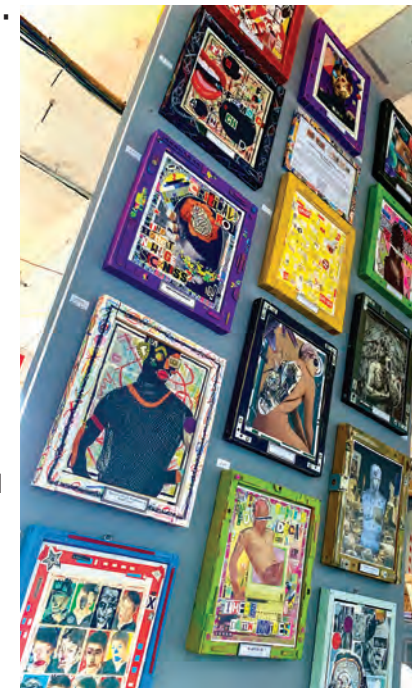
August – social event (to be confirmed) – everyone welcome

An opportunity to take a relaxed day visiting an art venue, a garden or a house of particular interest – or maybe just a meal out together. Suggestions welcome!

Monday September 7th • George Willmore – Collage

Junk, Punks, and Adventures in collage, with all the meaning and politics such labels represent! While his work varies in terms of style, sizes, and composition, what links them is the use of recycled materials and a preference for heavily contrasting imagery, vibrant colours, and having a tendency to lean into influences from the DADA and punk movement.

 @sub_spacer



2026 Programme

www.yorkartworkers.org.uk