

HOUSE & GARDEN

INSIDER *art*

Art scene

EDITED BY FIONA MCKENZIE JOHNSTON

Sculpture towns and public art

If you have paid a visit to Wakefield in Yorkshire recently, you might have spotted some additions. Wakefield Council, in collaboration with The Hepworth Wakefield and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, is unveiling a series of new monumental site-specific sculptures by artists such as Annie Morris, Halima Cassell and Jason Wilsher-Mills. Public artwork is not new – statues have adorned streets since ancient times – but its current emphasis dates from after the Second World War when, on a mission to beautify the Essex new town of Harlow, the founders of Harlow Art Trust declared that high-quality art should be part of the social fabric of everyday life. Some of the greatest artists of the 20th century – Henry Moore, Elisabeth Frink, Barbara Hepworth, Leon Underwood – created pieces for Harlow’s parks, shopping centres and office plazas, and new works are still being added (sculpturetown.uk). In Wakefield, the contemporary commissions can be found at Westgate train station, outside the library and in The Hepworth Wakefield’s garden designed by Tom Stuart-Smith (featured in the November 2022 issue of *House & Garden*). In London, two of Nick Hornby’s latest works have been installed, opposite St James’s Park tube station and on a residential street in Kensington. ‘Our environment affects everything, from our mood to our morals,’ he says. **Pictured** (from top) *Not in Anger*, 1979, Leon Underwood. *Power over others is Weakness disguised as Strength*, 2023, Nick Hornby



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BARNABY BARFORD:

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

The artist's work across ceramics, painting, moving image and drawing is reflected in this exhibition at David Gill, SW1, inspired by the flora and fungi of Epping Forest. Excitingly, it is also a chance to see Barnaby's first foray into furniture. *September 8-October 3; davidgillgallery.com*

Pictured *Untitled (Living Painting)*, 1hr10mins loop, 2021



MARINA ABRAMOVIĆ

The first major UK solo showcase of this pioneering performance artist's work is coming to the Royal Academy of Arts, W1. As well as providing an overview of Marina's extraordinary practice, it features four seminal works performed live in the galleries. *September 23-January 1, 2024; royalaacademy.org.uk*

Pictured *The Hero*, 2021



CLAUDETTE JOHNSON: PRESENCE

One of the most significant figurative artists of her generation, Claudette Johnson was a founding member of the Black British Art Movement. This compelling new exhibition at The Courtauld Gallery, WC2, surveys her artistic development throughout her career. *September 29-January 14, 2024; courtauld.ac.uk*

Pictured *Figure in Blue*, 2018 □

Three more to see...

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