

Press Release: 5 December 2013

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD WELCOMES ITS MILLIONTH VISITOR  
WITH A SPECIAL BAKE BY FRANCES QUINN,  
WINNER OF BBC2'S GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF 2013

Today, The Hepworth Wakefield welcomed its millionth visitor, just two and a half years since the gallery opened to the public.

The millionth visitor, Pauline Mackiewicz, from Sydney, New South Wales, Australia was over 10,000 miles away from home when Cllr Peter Box, Leader of Wakefield Council and Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield congratulated her as the millionth visitor just before 11.30am this morning.

Pauline received limited edition prints, an exclusive Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle Experience, including tours at all four venues (Henry Moore Institute, Leeds Art Gallery, The Hepworth Wakefield and Yorkshire Sculpture Park), a Yorkshire hamper and an overnight stay in a top Leeds hotel.

Frances Quinn, winner of The Great British Bake Off 2013 (BBC2's most-watched programme in a decade), helped the gallery to celebrate the arrival of its millionth visitor with a special bake. Visitors tucked into the unique taste sensation based on millionaire's shortbread, inspired by The Hepworth Wakefield's million milestone and the art of Barbara Hepworth, the Wakefield-born artist whose artistic legacy is celebrated by the gallery.

The Hepworth Wakefield's one millionth visitor, Pauline Mackiewicz said: "I feel very privileged to be chosen as the millionth visitor, it was so unexpected and a little overwhelming. It's my first visit to the gallery and what a stunning building it is. I have loved seeing the Hepworth plasters and that amazing view over the weir. And thanks to my friends from London and Wakefield who brought me here today!"

Since opening in May 2011, The Hepworth Wakefield has exceeded expectations, achieving its original annual target of 150,000 visitors per year in the first five weeks of opening. As well as exceeding visitor targets, the gallery has generated nearly £16m for the local economy and played an important part in the regeneration of Wakefield Waterfront and putting Wakefield on the international map.

Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield said: "Reaching the one million milestone is a very special moment for the whole of the team, our volunteers and supporters. It's wonderful to see the gallery celebrating this landmark after only two and a half years. And of course, our congratulations to Pauline for being our special millionth visitor."

Cllr Peter Box CBE, Leader of Wakefield Council said: "This is a great time for The Hepworth Wakefield and welcoming its one millionth visitor is indeed a big milestone. The Hepworth Wakefield is a credit to the whole district. It has put us on the map as a major tourist destination as these visitor numbers show. I am really pleased about how much is being achieved."

Paul Crilley, Patron of The Hepworth Wakefield said: "I've lived in Wakefield all my life and have seen the gallery grow from the laying of the foundations, to the day it opened. I've always been a fan of the architecture, although my wife wasn't too keen on the outside to start with! We've come back time and

time again to see the changing exhibitions and it's been on a journey of discovery for us both. The Hepworth Wakefield has been a real inspiration for us, opening our eyes to new experiences and we've seen art in London, Amsterdam and Chipperfield's Neus Museum in Berlin, Joan Miro's house in Majorca is next on our list."

He added: "I can't speak highly enough of the team at The Hepworth Wakefield. It's such a positive place to be, it makes me feel happy and I think that's why my wife and I wanted to support the gallery and and became patrons, to support this world-class art on our doorstep. I'm so pleased to see the gallery hit the million mark and it's am looking forward to seeing what they've got in store for 2014."

The gallery will continue its week-long celebrations until Sunday 8 December, with surprise visitor giveaways to mark the occasion and thank visitors for their continued support. These include limited edition prints, posters and goody bags to free gallery membership, afternoon tea in the Café Bar or even a private tour of the gallery with friends and family.

Pictures during the week-long celebrations will be posted on the gallery's new Instagram site: [instagram.com/hepworthwakefield](https://www.instagram.com/hepworthwakefield) For the latest announcements and details of surprise daily giveaways, visit: [hepworthwakefield.org](http://hepworthwakefield.org), twitter: @HepworthGallery, Facebook: [facebook.com/TheHepworthWakefield](https://www.facebook.com/TheHepworthWakefield)

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#### EDITOR'S NOTES:

#### THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The gallery is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration. Designed by the internationally acclaimed practice, David Chipperfield Architects, it is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England with additional funding from a number of charitable trusts and private individuals. The gallery opened on 21 May 2011 and attracted 512,000 visitors within the first 12 months and 850,000 in the first two years.

The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW

Free admission

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm and 10am – 9pm on the Third Thursday of every month

Closed Mondays (except for Bank Holidays and school holidays) [www.hepworthwakefield.org](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org)  
01924 247360

The gallery should be cited in full, as The Hepworth Wakefield and not Hepworth Wakefield, Hepworth Gallery or any other configuration.

#### YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE TRIANGLE

The Hepworth Wakefield, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Henry Moore Institute and Leeds Art Gallery are four of the UK's leading visual art organisations, situated within 30 minutes-drive or train ride from

one another. They build on West Yorkshire's unique artistic legacy as the birthplace of two of the most important 20th Century artists, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore.

Visitor research shows that we all share audiences from Yorkshire and beyond and together, we are a world-class destination for art-lovers. This long term partnership aims to promote contemporary art and sculpture as inspirational settings to grow visitor numbers to all four institutions and to raise the profile of West Yorkshire as the birthplace of Modern British sculpture.

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