

HEPWORTH VS MOORE

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NEW EXHIBITIONS PRESENT MASTERPIECES FROM WAKEFIELD'S ART  
COLLECTION AND REVEAL HEPWORTH'S PERSONAL LIBRARY FOR THE  
VERY FIRST TIME

MASTERPIECES BY BARBARA HEPWORTH AND HENRY MOORE

TWO NEW EXHIBITIONS OPEN 13 MAY 2017

FREE ADMISSION

[hepworthwakefield.org/HepworthMoore](http://hepworthwakefield.org/HepworthMoore)

This summer The Hepworth Wakefield will open new exhibitions examining two giants of British art and their deep connection with Yorkshire: Barbara Hepworth (born in Wakefield in 1903) and Henry Moore (born in Castleford in 1889).

Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield, said: *"To celebrate being shortlisted for the prestigious Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017, we felt it important to show off the masterpieces in the collection held here in Wakefield and look in even greater depth at the two extraordinary artists who were born locally and contributed in such an enormous way to the development of Modern British art."*

Around 30 works by Barbara Hepworth will be presented, tracing the artist's whole career, from early drawings created in 1925, to her late marble sculptures of the 1970s. The display will include Hepworth's iconic stringed forms that emerged during the 1940s, as well as important examples of the full range of material types that she used – cast bronze, stone and wood carvings, paintings, prints and even a screen-printed scarf.

Hepworth's personal library will also be on public view for the first time. Hepworth's books are held by The Hepworth Wakefield as a research resource and reflect a broad array of interests from natural history and mathematics to Zen Buddhism. Many were gifts from artist friends including Ben Nicholson and Herbert Read, William Scott and Isamu Noguchi and contain personal dedications. Others have annotations by Hepworth, including several dictionaries with lists of ideas for titles of works, and a copy of Sophocles' *Electra*, which contains notes relating to the costume, and set designs Hepworth created for the Old Vic production in 1951.

Barbara Hepworth first met Henry Moore after the First World War at Leeds School of Art where they both studied, and both went on to the Royal College of Art, London in the early 1920s.

During the war, Moore became widely known for his drawings of Londoners sheltering in Underground stations and was commissioned by the War Artists Advisory Committee to record miners in Castleford, documenting the civilian contribution to the war effort. A selection of these drawings will be shown in an intimate display alongside *Open Work Head No. 2* (1950), one of a series of sculptures that suggests miners' helmets as well as armour and war.

Wakefield collected work by both Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore since their early careers in the 1930s. In 1977, Moore discovered that Wakefield was fundraising to buy one print from his series *Stonehenge* (1973) and promptly donated a complete set to the collection. This series of lithograph prints will be displayed in its entirety.

Eleanor Clayton, Curator at The Hepworth Wakefield, said: *"This is a really exciting opportunity to see artworks by two of Britain's greatest artists and pioneers of British Modernism who were both born in Yorkshire. It is fascinating to see how much the Yorkshire landscape remained an influence for both artists throughout their careers, but also to learn about the wider sources Hepworth drew inspiration from through this, the first display of her personal library."*

To coincide with the opening of these new exhibitions, the gallery is launching a new suite of fun creative resources to encourage families to interact with the works on display through looking, analyzing and drawing. Created in consultation with local families with autistic children, they include soft play sculptural parts to stack and objects that can be handled. Some of the free family drop-in activities offered at weekends and in the school holidays will also focus on Barbara Hepworth and her work, such as Hepworth's Sensory Stories – a multi-sensory workshops, especially suited for under 5s.

A new schools programme has also been developed (available to book from September 2017) that takes a closer focus on Hepworth and her impact on contemporary artistic practice. This responds to both local and national changes in the curriculum. New elements include a local history workshop exploring the story of Hepworth and Wakefield's role in Modern British Art and a cross-curricular workshop that will enable children to learn Maths through Hepworth's working processes.

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

*Maths in Art* is kindly funded by the Burberry Foundation.  
<http://www.hepworthwakefield.org/learning/mathsinart/>

**ABOUT THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD**

The Hepworth Wakefield is an award-winning art gallery in the heart of Yorkshire, set within Wakefield's historic waterfront, overlooking the River Calder. Designed by the acclaimed David Chipperfield Architects, the gallery opened in May 2011 and has already welcomed over 1.7 million visitors.

Named after Barbara Hepworth, one of the most important artists of the 20th century who was born and brought up in Wakefield, the gallery presents major exhibitions of the best international modern and contemporary art. It also is home to Wakefield's art collection – an impressive compendium of modern British and contemporary art – and has dedicated galleries exploring Hepworth's art and working process.

The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, Wakefield WF1 5AW  
Open daily throughout the exhibition; 10am – 5pm.  
Free admission

Twitter: @HepworthGallery  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheHepworthWakefield](http://www.facebook.com/TheHepworthWakefield)  
Instagram: [hepworthwakefield](https://www.instagram.com/hepworthwakefield)

**MEDIA AND IMAGE ENQUIRIES:**

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