

PRESS RELEASE – 7 September 2015

DES HUGHES: STRETCH OUT AND WAIT



NEW PUBLIC ART COMMISSION AND EXHIBITION BY CONTEMPORARY BRITISH ARTIST
TRACES JOURNEY OF HENRY MOORE'S *DRAPED RECLINING FIGURE*



DES HUGHES: STRETCH OUT AND WAIT
12 SEPTEMBER 2015 – SPRING 2016

The Hepworth Wakefield is delighted to present a new public art commission and exhibition by contemporary British artist, Des Hughes, inspired by the legacy of one of Britain's most famous sculptors, Henry Moore.

Hughes' longstanding interest in the work of Castleford-born sculptor Henry Moore has informed his new solo exhibition at The Hepworth Wakefield and the new public art commission - a pair of reclining figures that will be sited at Castleford Academy and outside The Hepworth Wakefield respectively.

For his exhibition, *Stretch Out and Wait* at The Hepworth Wakefield, Hughes will focus on the story of Moore's involvement with Castleford, as a community and as a location for sculpture. Bespoke, large-scale cabinets made by Hughes will display archival material (press cuttings, photographs, posters and correspondence) relating to the 1980 exhibition and Moore's *Draped Reclining Figure*, as well as a series of sculptures by the artist. This will be the first time that works from 'hood' and 'head' series will be exhibited, and the first time that a complete set of the bronze 'flints' will be shown together.

Hughes has been interested in artistic engagement with education and community groups, the process involved in creating new public sculpture, and the idea of 'productive vandalism', for example when Moore's sculpture was defaced, or added to, by the inclusion of glasses drawn on its face by an unknown member of the public.

Throughout 2015, Hughes has visited local primary schools in Wakefield, working with over 70 pupils from the local area who will attend Castleford Academy from September and his large-scale cabinets will also exhibit several art works made by local school children, created in response to his practice.

A significant new public art commission will also go on display, comprising a new pair of reclining figures that take Moore's gift to the people of Castleford as its starting point, to be sited at Castleford Academy and outside the Hepworth Wakefield respectively. Placing Hughes' sculptures in Wakefield and Castleford, two towns located in the district of Wakefield, will draw on the on-going competitive tensions and connections between the respective birthplaces of Hepworth and Moore.

For the past two years Hughes has been granted access to the Wakefield archive held at The Hepworth Wakefield, undertaking research to help broaden his understanding of Moore's work. This research has provided the starting point for developing his work and the creation of a new public art commission. Hughes became particularly fascinated during his research by the bronze sculpture *Draped Reclining Figure*, 1979, gifted by Moore to his hometown of Castleford, West Yorkshire in 1980.

Born on 30 July 1898 in Castleford, West Yorkshire, Henry Moore grew up to become one of Britain's most famous sculptors. The son of a coal miner, Moore retained a connection to the town in which he was born and raised throughout his life, regularly appearing in the local press, where he became affectionately dubbed 'our henry'.

Moore's generosity was celebrated in the exhibition *Henry Moore and the Children of Castleford* held at Wakefield Art Gallery in 1980. Held in honour of Moore's donation of a reclining figure to the town, this exhibition of children's work highlighted the inspirational effect of this gift on the town's young people. *Draped Reclining Figure*, 1979 was sited outside Castleford's Civic Centre in 1980, where it remained until thefts of public sculpture across the UK in 2012 prompted its removal and storage. The sculpture is now displayed in the new Castleford Forum Museum.

Des Hughes' sculpture sited at Castleford Academy will continue a long-term project by The Hepworth Wakefield, working with local schools to engage young people in cross-curricular learning through art. The commissions reflect the gallery's commitment to working with young people, helping them to engage with contemporary art through onsite and offsite projects. A celebratory event with the schoolchildren will be held in the gallery.

Des Hughes said: "With the sculptures, prints and artistic methods of Moore being a continuing influence on my own practice, I am thrilled to be working on this project with the gallery. The exhibition will include works from my 'hood' and 'head' series never before exhibited, large-scale cabinets that I am making to highlight themed collections from within my practice as a whole and two new outdoor sculptures that continue my interest in funeral effigies and the reclining figure as recurring motif in sculpture."

The exhibition is part of The Hepworth Wakefield's forthcoming autumn 2015 exhibition programme, which includes exhibitions by contemporary artist Enrico David and a survey of sculpture and prints by modern British artist Gertrude Hermes, both exhibitions open 13 November 2015 until 24 January 2016.

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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High resolution images are available from the Media Centre: www.hepworthwakefield.org/press

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EXHIBITION FACTS

Title:	Des Hughes: Stretch Out and Wait
Dates:	12 September 2015 – Spring 2016
Address:	The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW
Telephone:	+44 (0)1924 247360
Admission:	Free
Website:	www.hepworthwakefield.org
Email:	hello@hepworthwakefield.org
Opening Hours:	10am - 5pm Tuesday – Sunday 10am - 9pm Third Thursday of the month Closed Mondays (except local school holidays and bank holidays)
Travel:	By Train: the nearest stations are Wakefield Westgate and Kirkgate By Car: the gallery is situated off the A61, with nearby links to the M1 motorway. A pay & display visitor car park is located on Thornes Lane, WF1 5QJ, with free blue badge car parking on site By Bus: the gallery is situated on main bus routes and the FreeCityBus route (Mon-Sat, 9.30am-3pm) By Bicycle: bicycle racks are located by our main entrance By Air: the nearest airport is Leeds Bradford
Polite Request:	The gallery should be cited in full, as The Hepworth Wakefield
Twitter:	@HepworthGallery
Facebook:	TheHepworthWakefield
Instagram:	HepworthWakefield

EDITOR'S NOTES:

DES HUGHES

Born in 1970 Birmingham, Des Hughes lives and works in Kington, Herefordshire.

Education:
2000 – 2002 MA Fine Art Goldsmith's College, London
1990 – 1994 BA (Hons) Fine Art (Sculpture) Bath College of Art

Selected Recent Solo Exhibitions:

2013 Rust Never Sleeps, Buchmann Galerie, Berlin
2011 Thems, A.E.Barrow, Chatsworth Road, organised by Measure, London
2010 Small Collections, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham

Selected Recent Group Exhibitions:

- 2014 Body & Void: Echoes of Moore in Contemporary Art, The Henry Moore Foundation, Hertfordshire
- 2012 Everything's Inevitable: Works from the collection of Manchester Art Gallery selected by Des Hughes, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester
- 2011 I haven't been feeling myself lately, commission of bronze 'dog' for Attingham Park, Shropshire by Meadow Arts
- Dystopia, CAPC centre d'art contemporain de Bordeaux
- Sometimes I wish I could just disappear, David Risley Gallery, Copenhagen
- Backbone, A Selection of Modern British Sculpture, New Art Centre, Salisbury

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 and an increasing number of charitable trusts, private individuals, Patrons and Members. The gallery opened on 21 May 2011 and welcomed its millionth visitor on 5 December 2013.

THE CALDER

The Calder is The Hepworth Wakefield's contemporary art and events space which opened to the public on 30 August 2013. It is located on the ground floor of a 19th century former textiles mill, situated adjacent to the main gallery site, on the banks of the River Calder. The Calder adds 600 square metres of exhibition and event space to the existing 10 gallery spaces within The Hepworth Wakefield and presents a programme of art, music and events that runs in parallel to the visitor offer at the main gallery.

The Calder, Gallery Walk, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW

Free admission (except for ticketed events)

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 12 – 4.30pm

Open Third Thursday of every month, 12 – 8.30pm, as part of After Hours late nights

Open for the Wakefield Art on Wednesdays every other month, 12 - 8.30pm

Closed Mondays (except for Bank Holidays and school holidays)

www.hepworthwakefield.org

01924 247360

Twitter: @HepworthGallery #TheCalder

Instagram: [instagram.com/thecalder](https://www.instagram.com/thecalder)

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.

This long-term partnership works to promote contemporary art and sculpture in inspirational settings to grow visitor numbers for all four institutions and to raise the profile of West Yorkshire as a major centre for the appreciation and study of sculpture.

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