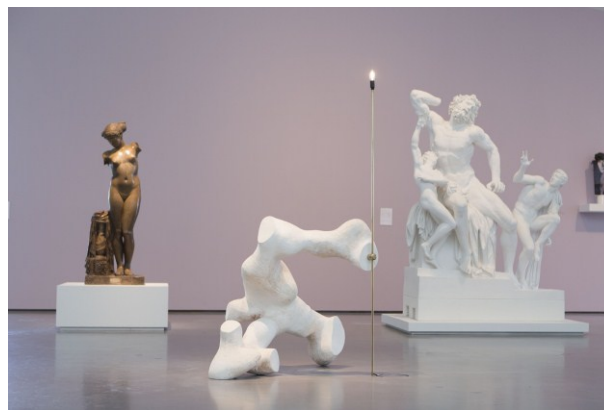


Press Release – 13 May 2015

PLASTERS: CASTS AND COPIES
UNTIL 8 MAY 2016



PLASTER TAKES SHAPE OVER 200 YEARS
IN A NEW SCULPTURE EXHIBITION AT THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD



Bringing together sculptures made over the past 200 years *Plasters: Casts and Copies* is a new exhibition on display in two galleries at The Hepworth Wakefield until 8 May 2016.

The exhibition explores the changing artistic significance of this versatile material, from 18th century plaster copies of classical sculptures, to a medium favoured by several prominent artists of the twentieth century, including Barbara Hepworth, to contemporary artists who are interested in exploring its adaptability.

Sam Lackey, Curator at The Hepworth Wakefield said: “Our collection of beautiful Hepworth plaster prototypes, gifted to the people of Wakefield by Hepworth’s family were an inspiration in considering this exhibition. This ambitious and eclectic show draws together a variety of sculptures made in this material to offer an insight into this often overlooked medium and its connection to a wider art history, which I hope our visitors will enjoy.”

The story begins with the plaster copies of ancient sculptures. Created from the 15th century onwards, these copies were used by art academies, including the Royal Academy of Art School, to train their students in draughtsmanship and anatomy. During the 18th and 19th century public museums, such as London’s Victoria & Albert Museum, often included cast courts to display plaster casts of sculptures and architectural features from ancient buildings, which embodied the classical ideals that were at the height of beauty and taste during that period.

To reflect this, the exhibition includes several important loans from the Royal Academy of Arts, plaster casts of the classical works of the *Belvedere Torso* and *Discobolus*. Their familiarity to visitors highlights how casts were used before the invention of photography as a means of reproducing works of art for a wide international audience.

The changing context of the medium is presented through a series of contemporary plaster works by artists including Nick Evans, Anthea Hamilton, Kris Martin, Thomas Schütte, Daniel Silver and Rebecca Warren. Placed alongside their historical predecessors, these artists address the material and subject matter differently, as a means to either reproduce the classical pose or tackle the idea of Western beauty.

Barbara Hepworth and her contemporaries used plaster in both the process of creating bronze sculptures and as a material in its own right. A permanent display of plasters and prototypes by Hepworth, which are at the heart of The Hepworth Wakefield, show how Hepworth carved and painted her plaster models.

Plaster: Casts and Copies also includes examples of earlier works made by Hepworth and her contemporaries - Jean Arp, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Ben Nicholson and Kurt Schwitters in the 1930s and 1940s. For many artists at that time, plaster was chosen as a cheap, portable material that was readily available during the inter-war years. For others, the natural whiteness of this material fitted the ideals of a new generation of artists, interested pure abstract art.

For further details about this new exhibition and The Hepworth Wakefield's spring/summer 2015 programme please visit www.hepworthwakefield.org or telephone +44 (0)1924 247360.

ENDS

EXHIBITION FACTS:

Press Preview:	Friday 15 May 2015
Title:	Plaster: Casts and Copies
Dates:	2 May 2015 – 8 May 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)
By Train:	the nearest stations are Wakefield Westgate and Wakefield 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
Polite Request:	The gallery should be cited in full, as The Hepworth Wakefield
Twitter:	@HepworthGallery
Facebook:	TheHepworthWakefield
Instagram:	HepworthWakefield

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For further details, interview requests and photo opportunities please contact:
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IMAGE CREDITS:

Installation view of *Plasters: Casts and Copies*.
Photography by Tom Arber. Image courtesy The Hepworth Wakefield/www.hepworthwakefield.org

IMAGE REQUESTS:

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

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

PLASTER: CASTS AND COPIES

This exhibition is generously supported by the Henry Moore Foundation.

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 has welcomed over 1.3 million visitors in the past 4 years.

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.

This summer, YST will celebrate the life and work of Anthony Caro. A joint exhibition between The Hepworth Wakefield and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, *Caro in Yorkshire*, will open on 18 July. A free Art Bus will run between both sites during weekends and daily during local school holidays, to help visitors experience the exhibition in its entirety. The Henry Moore Institute will be hosting a Caro symposium in September 2015 and a Caro sculpture will be cited in July in Victoria Gardens, a busy pedestrianised area located in front of Leeds Art Gallery and the Henry Moore Institute.

For details on Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle:
Visit www.ysculpture.com
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END OF ALL