

Press Release – 28 January 2015

TWO NEW BARBARA HEPWORTH EXHIBITIONS ANNOUNCED  
FEATURING ARCHIVE PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE EXHIBITED FOR THE FIRST TIME



The Hepworth Wakefield will present two new exhibitions that will offer unprecedented insight into the earliest and latest years in the life and work of Yorkshire-born artist Barbara Hepworth. A must-see for any fans of Barbara Hepworth's work or those looking to learn more about the artist, the exhibitions will complement the major Barbara Hepworth retrospective at Tate Britain this summer.

A GREATER FREEDOM: HEPWORTH 1965 – 1975  
18 APRIL 2015 - APRIL 2016

*'..while always remaining constant to my conviction about truth to material, I have found a greater freedom for myself.'* Barbara Hepworth, 1968



*A Greater Freedom* follows artistic developments in Hepworth's later years, focusing on the last decade of the sculptor's life from 1965 – 1975. Showcasing an exciting period in Hepworth's career and her determination to remain consistently inventive and ambitious, *A Greater Freedom* examines the legacy of one of the UK's most famous artists.

Hepworth was extremely prolific during her later years, with Alan Bowness (Director of the Tate Gallery 1980-1988) noting that Hepworth made nearly as many works during the 1960s as the four decades from 1925 until 1960. These later works show Hepworth experimenting with new materials, working in bronze from the late 1950s, slate from 1962 and print-making from 1969.

The international acclaim and recognition that came from representing Britain at the Venice Biennale in 1950, winning the Grand Prix at the Sao Paulo Biennial of 1959 and her commission to create *Single Form* for the United Nations in the early 1960s, afforded Hepworth opportunities to explore new ideas and processes. She used diverse materials to explore and develop forms that had been present in her work from the early 1930s, stating in 1971, 'I don't think anyone realises how much the last ten years has been a fulfilment of my youth'. For example, Hepworth was only able to realise

the ambitious marble carvings she conceived years earlier after the Second World War, once previously prohibitively expensive materials became affordable.

Hepworth's interest in exhibition design was also significantly developed in her later years. In particular, Hepworth introduced new methods of displaying installations of her work, following the outdoor exhibition of her work at the Rietveld Pavilion at the Kröller-Müller Museum in 1965, in which Hepworth displayed her sculptures on breezeblock plinths. Subsequently, Hepworth used this technique in her 1968 Tate retrospective, mounting works on breezeblock plinths with the addition of houseplants, bringing outside into the gallery space. These elements now seem very current, prescient of contemporary installations and *A Greater Freedom* will reconstruct these designs featuring work included in the 1968 exhibition, highlighting the ingenuity of Hepworth not only in her work but also the techniques involved in displaying it.

## HEPWORTH IN YORKSHIRE 16 MAY - 6 SEPTEMBER 2015

*'The whole of this Yorkshire background means more to me as the years have passed. I draw on these early experiences not only visually in texture and contour, but humanly. The importance of man in the landscape was stressed by the seeming contradiction of the industrial town springing out of the inner beauty of the country. This paradox expressed for me most forcibly the fundamental and ideal unity of man with nature which I consider to be one of the basic impulses of sculpture.'* Barbara Hepworth, 1952



*Hepworth in Yorkshire* will focus on Hepworth's early years growing up in Wakefield, exhibiting publicly for the first time family photographs and images of Hepworth's formative years.

Early drawings, paintings and sculpture, which show Hepworth's natural gifts in these areas, will also be on display. During this time Hepworth was engaging with an academic figurative style that she would soon depart from to find her own artistic voice. The display also features newspaper articles and photography that document her early successes.

Hepworth herself asserted that the experience of growing up in Yorkshire was hugely influential on her work. This is reflected in the series of photographs she commissioned of the Yorkshire landscape in 1964, taken by photographer Lee Sheldrake, which are also exhibited.

In addition to the two exhibitions, The Hepworth Wakefield is home to the Hepworth Family Gift, a remarkable collection that is central to the gallery's permanent collection. It consists of 44 of Hepworth's surviving working models for her bronze sculptures (the majority of which were made in plaster) alongside tools and materials drawn from her second studio in St Ives, the Palais de Danse.

Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield said: *'We look forward to offering our visitors two new exhibitions that explore new areas of Barbara Hepworth's life and work as one of Britain's most significant artists. We will be examining her earliest years in Wakefield and her lifelong connection to the Yorkshire landscape, as well as presenting sculptures and drawings from the final decade of her career, which saw Hepworth at her most prolific. Together with the permanent display of the Hepworth Family Gift - which features 44 of her working models, tools and archives relating to the major commissions for the United Nations and John Lewis Partnership - we have a wonderful offer to complement Tate's Hepworth retrospective.'*

Dr Sophie Bowness, Hepworth's granddaughter, art historian and a Trustee of the Hepworth Estate said: *'The Hepworth Wakefield's pair of early and late Hepworth exhibitions promise to be the perfect complement to Tate Britain's major survey, opening in June. The work of the final decade of Hepworth's life is often overlooked and Wakefield's display will feature a beautiful selection of sculpture in a variety of media, alongside her paintings and prints, and will evoke the installations of the period. A highlight will be a group of the late carvings in marble, a material that had special significance for Hepworth and that she gave particular emphasis to in her final years.'*

Penelope Curtis, Director of Tate Britain will be speaking about Barbara Hepworth at The Hepworth Wakefield on Friday 15 May. For details and tickets please telephone 01924 247360.

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## EXHIBITION FACTS

Title: A Greater Freedom: Hepworth 1965 – 1975  
Dates: 18 April 2015 - April 2016

Title: Hepworth in Yorkshire  
Dates: 16 May - 6 September 2015

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

Telephone: +44 (0)1924 247360

Admission: Free

Website: [www.hepworthwakefield.org](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org)

Email: [hello@hepworthwakefield.org](mailto: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 LeedsBradford

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 REQUESTS:

High resolution images are available from the Media Centre: [www.hepworthwakefield.org/press](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org/press)

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## EDITOR'S NOTES:

### BARBARA HEPWORTH AND THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The Hepworth Wakefield takes its name from the internationally acclaimed sculptor, Barbara Hepworth, who was born in Wakefield in 1903. It is home to the Hepworth Family Gift, a remarkable collection that is central to the gallery's permanent collection.

The gift consists of 44 of Hepworth's surviving working models for her bronze sculptures, the majority of which were made in plaster. The Gift also includes a group of works by Hepworth's artist friends, including paintings by John Wells and Breon O'Casey, and ceramics by Janet Leach.

This generous gift was made by the Hepworth Family through the Art Fund and was one of the key reasons for building a new gallery for Wakefield, connecting Hepworth's name with the city in which she was born and grew up. The Hepworth Estate has worked throughout with David Chipperfield Architects on the design of the two purpose-built gallery spaces devoted to The Hepworth Family Gift.

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 new contemporary art space which opened to the public on 30 August 2013. Located on the ground floor of a 19th century former textiles mill, the new contemporary art space is 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 mixed 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](http://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.

For details on Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle:  
Visit [www.ysculpture.com](http://www.ysculpture.com)  
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Like: [www.facebook.com/YorkshireSculptureTriangle](https://www.facebook.com/YorkshireSculptureTriangle)

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