

Press Release – 25 November 2013

WHO IS YOUR YORKSHIRE GREAT - BARBARA HEPWORTH OR HENRY MOORE?



ARTISTS GO HEAD TO HEAD

AS NEW EXHIBITIONS OPEN AT THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

This winter The Hepworth Wakefield opens two new exhibitions that invite visitors to experience the work of two Yorkshire greats - Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore.

For the first time, the gallery is presenting the work of these peers concurrently as the artists go 'head to head' with displays that showcase two recurrent themes within their work. Both *Henry Moore: Reclining Figures* and *Barbara Hepworth: Two Forms* will be on display at The Hepworth Wakefield until May 2014.

Frances Guy, Head of Collection and Exhibitions said: "It's fascinating to show the work of Moore and Hepworth side by side and invite visitors to see for themselves the similarities and contrasts between these peers, encapsulated in two of their most popular themes."

Henry Moore: Reclining Figures spans five decades of Moore's career and focuses on a theme that was "an absolute obsession" for the artist. The display features two sculptures from the Wakefield Collection, alongside a group of small-scale maquettes and a monumentally scaled bronze sculpture on loan from The Henry Moore Foundation. Visitors can get hands-on with Moore's *Two Piece Reclining Figure No. 4*, 1961, by using protective gloves to experience the deeply textured surface of this bronze work.

The display coincides with the opening of a new Henry Moore exhibits in the region. *Working Model for Draped Reclining Figure* (1979), the third reclining figure by Moore in Wakefield's collection, is to go on show at the new Castleford Forum.

In contrast, *Barbara Hepworth: Two Forms* is a more intimate display that brings together a group of sculptures that trace the shift in Hepworth's work from figurative to abstract through the *Mother and Child* motif. Wakefield's much loved *Mother and Child*, 1934 will be back on display, presented alongside key loans from the Pier Arts Centre, Stromness, Orkney and several private collections.

Many of Hepworth's early sculptures relevant to the new display were lost or destroyed during the Second World War. To represent these, a superb series of photographs taken by Hepworth herself and by photographers William Darby and Paul Laib, appear in the display, documenting the years 1932–1937, a critical period in Hepworth's practice.

For full details of The Hepworth Wakefield's winter programme of exhibitions, events and family-friendly activities visit hepworthwakefield.org or telephone 01924 247360.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

Yorkshire's major art gallery is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration and opened to the public on 21 May 2011. 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 Hepworth Wakefield is part of several partnerships including: Tate Plus; Art in Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle (with near neighbours Yorkshire Sculpture Park, The Henry Moore Institute and Leeds Art Gallery). The Hepworth Wakefield is a registered charity.

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)

hepworthwakefield.org

01924 247360

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BARBARA HEPWORTH

By 1935 Hepworth's work had, as she wrote later: "changed direction although the only fresh influence had been the arrival of the children. The work was more formal and all traces of naturalism had disappeared, and for some years I was absorbed in the relationships in space, in size and texture and weight, as well as in the tensions between the two forms."

HENRY MOORE

Henry Moore said: "The vital thing for an artist is to have a subject that allows [him] to try out all kinds of formal ideas – things that he doesn't yet know about for certain but wants to experiment with... In my case the reclining figure provides chances of that sort. The subject-matter is given. It's settled for you, and you know it and like it, so that within it, within the subject that you've done a dozen times before, you are free to invent a completely new form-idea."

CASTLEFORD FORUM

Castleford Forum will be an extended and refurbished building on the site of the existing Castleford Library which is currently closed and due to re-open in 2013. It will support the display and interpretation of significant artefacts from the Council's Castleford collections and provide improved opportunities to engage with and be inspired by all the heritage resources available on site. The Forum will provide a new home for Henry Moore's bronze sculpture *Working Model for Draped Reclining Figure*, 1976-79, which had been displayed outside Castleford Civic Centre for over 30 years. For more information telephone 01977 722740 or email museumsandarts@wakefield.gov.uk