

# THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

PRESS RELEASE – 6 December 2011

## FIRST CONTEMPORARY ART ACQUISITION FOR THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

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EVA ROTHSCHILD'S *WANDERING PALM* IS ACQUIRED FOR WAKEFIELD COUNCIL'S PERMANENT ART COLLECTION, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY AND THE ART FUND

The Hepworth Wakefield is delighted to announce its first contemporary art acquisition. Purchased through the Contemporary Art Society's Acquisitions Scheme and with the support of the Art Fund, *Wandering Palm*, 2011 by Eva Rothschild, is the first work to be acquired for the Wakefield Council's permanent art collection since it opened in May 2011.

*Wandering Palm* was one of a number of new works created by the artist for the inaugural exhibition, *Hot Touch*, at The Hepworth Wakefield. The explicit use of casting processes behind Eva Rothschild's *Wandering Palm*, which assembles cast component parts of familiar everyday objects, has a resonance with the existing permanent collection and in particular Barbara Hepworth's own hand-worked plasters from the Hepworth Family Gift.

Simon Wallis, Director said: "This is a really exciting moment for The Hepworth Wakefield. Thanks to the support of Contemporary Art Society and the Art Fund we now have this wonderful work by Eva Rothschild, one of the country's most significant contemporary sculptors, in Wakefield's permanent art collection."

He continued: "New acquisitions by contemporary artists combined with a regularly changing and ambitious exhibition programme of historic, modern and contemporary art continue the progressive artistic legacy of the Wakefield Art Gallery founders. The collection is featured in our displays, with works by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Jacob Epstein, Graham Sutherland, John Piper, and Paul Nash."

Eva Rothschild (born 1971, Dublin) is one of the foremost contemporary sculptors working in the UK today. Her sculptures have attracted international attention in their deployment of a varied lexicon of forms and materials. Following its successful opening at The Hepworth Wakefield, *Hot Touch* is now on display at Kunstverein Hannover in Germany, 19 November 2011 — 29 January 2012. For more information visit [www.kunstverein-hannover.de](http://www.kunstverein-hannover.de)

Clare Woods: *The Unquiet Head* is the new contemporary exhibition, on display at The Hepworth Wakefield until 29 January 2012. New large-scale paintings by the British painter have been inspired by the Yorkshire landscape, and in particular the natural formations at Brimham Rocks and Ilkley Moor. A display of work by Paul Nash, John Piper and Graham Sutherland from The Wakefield Permanent Art Collection and British Council Collection is also on display.

For more on the Clare Woods exhibition, and other events and activities visit [www.hepworthwakefield.org](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org) or call 01924 247360.

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## MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For information on The Hepworth Wakefield, or to request images or interviews please contact:  
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## EDITOR'S NOTES:

### THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The gallery, designed by David Chipperfield Architects, is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration. Since opening its doors to the public on 21 May, the gallery has already welcomed over 300,000 visitors, doubling its initial first year target.

The Hepworth Wakefield is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England with additional funding from a number of charitable trusts and private individuals. Clare Woods: *The Unquiet Head* is supported by the Audrey & Stanley Burton Charitable Trust.

The Hepworth Wakefield is proud to be a partner of All Points North, an initiative set up to profile major contemporary art spaces, events and festivals happening across the North of England this Autumn.  
[www.allpointsnorth.info](http://www.allpointsnorth.info)

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

Free admission

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10am - 5pm

Closed Mondays (except for Bank Holidays and school holidays)

10am – 9pm Third Thursday of every month

Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day

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

01924 247360

### THE WAKEFIELD COUNCIL PERMANENT ART COLLECTION

Wakefield's art collection consists of over 5,000 works. At the core of the collection is a significant group of works by modern British artists including Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, who were both born in the Wakefield District.

Established in 1934, the original Wakefield Art Gallery adopted an ambitious collecting policy with a core aim to nurture an understanding of contemporary art. Works by the leading artists of the time, who have become synonymous with shaping modern British art, were collected. Sculptures in the collection include Hepworth's *Mother and Child*, 1934, and Moore's *Reclining Figure*, 1936, from an important period in the history of British art, during which many artists such as Ivon Hitchens, Paul Nash and John Piper began to experiment with abstraction.

Other leading British artists are also represented in the collection, these include: David Bomberg, Roger Fry, Harold Gilman, Duncan Grant, Ben Nicholson, Patrick Heron, Lucie Rie and William Scott.

The Wakefield Council permanent art collection transferred to The Hepworth Wakefield in May 2011 as part of a 25 year contractual agreement for the management of the collection by the Hepworth Trust. Works of art from the Wakefield collection will be the display at the gallery and shown on a rotational basis as new displays are exhibited.

### FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS:

22 October – 29 January 2012:

11 February – 12 June 2012:

23 June – September 2012:

CLARE WOODS: *The Unquiet Head*

HEATHER & IVAN MORISON, BEN RIVERS, DAVID THORPE

ARTIST ROOMS: Richard Long

LUKE FOWLER

## ART FUND

Selected events in The Hepworth Wakefield Autumn/Winter programme are supported by the Art Fund. The Art Fund is the national charity for art, helping UK museums and galleries to buy, show and share art. Over the past 5 years, the Art Fund has given £24 million to buy art and supported a range of projects and programmes aimed at helping more people enjoy art. It is independently funded by 85,000 supporters who purchase a National Art Pass, costing from just £37.50, which gives free entry to over 200 museums, galleries and historic houses across the country as well as 50% off major exhibitions.

Find out more about the Art Fund and how to buy a National Art Pass at [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org). Media contact 020 7225 4888, [media@artfund.org](mailto:media@artfund.org)

## CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY

For any further information on the Contemporary Art Society call +44 (0)20 7831 1243 or email [info@contemporaryartsociety.org](mailto:info@contemporaryartsociety.org)