

Press Release, October 2019

Henry Moore: The Artist and his Patron

30 October 2019 – 8 March 2020

Pallant House Gallery is delighted to announce an exhibition of sculptures, drawings and prints by one of Britain's greatest sculptors, the artist Sir Henry Moore OM CH (1898-1986). It explores the relationship between Moore and his patron Walter Hussey (1909-1985), the Dean of Chichester Cathedral, who was known for his inspired commissions from modern artists for the Church of England.

Walter Hussey first encountered Moore's work in 1942 at the height of the Second World War in an exhibition of the Official War Artists in the National Gallery. He was impressed by the sculptor's drawings of people sheltering in the London Underground during the Blitz, and was struck by 'their dignity and three-dimensional quality'. He acquired two of the best drawings for himself, *Apprehensive Shelterers* (1941) and *Two Sleepers* (1942), both of which feature in this exhibition.

At the time, Hussey was Vicar of St Matthew's Church in Northampton and he declared that Moore 'was the sort of man who ought to be working for the Church of England'. He was inspired to commission Moore to sculpt the *Madonna and Child* (1943-4), also known as the 'Northampton Madonna'. The now-celebrated sculpture created a huge controversy, with it described as a 'monstrosity' and Sir Alfred Munnings launching an infamous tirade at the 1949 Royal Academy Annual



Henry Moore, *Apprehensive Shelterers*, 1942, watercolour and wax crayon on paper, Pallant House Gallery, Chichester (Hussey Bequest, Chichester District Council, 1985)

Summer exhibition banquet that was broadcast live on radio. Yet, in 1948, the maquettes were cast in bronze and exhibited at the Venice Biennale, where Moore won the 'International Sculpture prize', confirming his position as Britain's 'greatest living sculptor'. One of these maquettes will be on shown in the exhibition, on loan from Northampton Museum and Art Gallery.

Hussey subsequently commissioned Graham Sutherland to paint a crucifixion, fueling a debate on the role of modern art in the Church and gaining himself a reputation as an innovative patron of art, which he continued as Dean of Chichester Cathedral (1956-1978), where he also commissioned Marc Chagall, John Piper and Leonard Bernstein. In 1975 he commissioned a set of medallions from Moore and the jeweller Jocelyn Burton based on the

Romanesque reliefs in the Cathedral, which the artist had first seen as a student in 1922. The medallions capture what Moore had described as the 'deep human feeling' of the ancient sculptures.

The exhibition provides an overview of Moore's career, beginning with one of his earliest organic abstractions, *Suckling Child* (1930), owned first by Jacob Epstein, then Sir Kenneth and Lady Clark, and finally Hussey. Key moments from the artist's career are represented, including his Surrealist drawings, wartime drawings of miners and shelterers from the Blitz, his bronze sculpture *Helmet Head and Shoulders* (1952) and later etching series such as the *Elephant Skull* album (1970). These key works were part of the Hussey Bequest in 1985, the Gallery's founding collection, which also included works by Dürer, Barbara Hepworth, Frank Auerbach, John Piper and Paul Nash, amongst many others.

Hussey's collection of works by Moore will be supplemented by other works by the artist from Pallant House Gallery's rich 'collection of collections'. It will form a fascinating overview of the artist's career, also including his etchings of sheep and his daughter Mary doing her homework; together with illustrated books and archival letters between the artist and patron from the West Sussex Records Office.

Simon Martin, Director of Pallant House Gallery, has said: 'Henry Moore was one of the greatest modern artists in Britain and Walter Hussey was one of the greatest modern patrons of art, and so it is fitting for Pallant House Gallery to be honouring their extraordinary creative friendship with an exhibition presenting our significant collection of Moore's work together with key loans.'

Henry Moore: The Artist and his Patron opens on Wednesday 30 October 2019 and continues until Sunday 8 March 2020.

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Notes to editors:

About Pallant House Gallery:

Pallant House Gallery in Chichester is a leading UK museum that stimulates new ways of thinking about British art from 1900 to now. As well as an original and critically-acclaimed exhibition programme and a public programme with inclusion at its heart, the gallery houses one of the best collections of Modern British art in the country - all within a distinctive setting of an 18th century townhouse and a 21st century gallery.

Opening Hours

Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm (excl.
Thursday: 10am – 8pm)
Sundays/Bank Holidays: 11am – 5pm
Mondays: Closed

Events:

There will be a talk by Hussey's biographer Dr Peter Webster, *The Vicar and the Sculptor* on 9 January 2020. Visit pallant.org.uk for more information and booking.