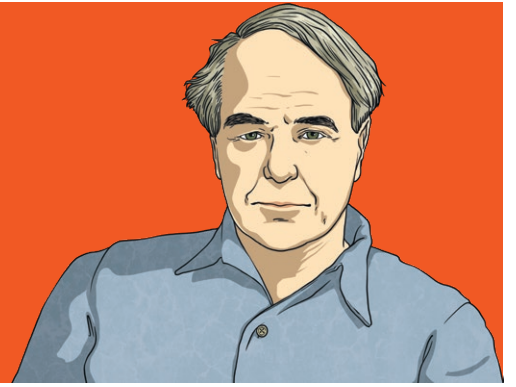


Henry Moore

1898 – 1986



Henry Moore was a British artist known for his sculptures, most of which were made from bronze.

Moore was born in Castleford, Yorkshire. He was the seventh of eight children and his family often struggled for money. Moore won a place at a grammar school, where he developed an interest in art and sculpture in particular. He trained to be a teacher and returned to his own school as a teacher. Moore volunteered to serve in the army and was injured at the Battle of Cambrai during the First World War.

After the war, Moore studied at the Leeds School of Art. While there, Moore became friends with Barbara Hepworth, who would also become a famous sculptor. In 1921, Moore won a scholarship to the Royal College of Art in London.



Moore studied the work of artists, such as Rodin, as well as sculpture from ancient Egypt, the Etruscan civilisation, Africa and South America.

He became interested in a method of sculpting called direct carving, where the artist worked straight on material without using moulds. Marks left from carving tools can be seen on the material.

Large Figure in a Shelter, 1985 – 1986

After art college, Moore won a scholarship. This enabled him to travel around Europe, studying the work of different artists. While travelling, he saw a sculpture from the Mayan civilisation of a figure lying down. This would greatly influence his own work.

Moore began to create semi-abstract figures of humans, particularly of them lying down. Semi-abstract means that although the artist may use shapes or colours that don't physically represent the subject, it is still possible to easily recognise what the art is portraying.

Henry Moore

During the Second World War, Moore created many sculptures. These included 'Women and Children in the Tube', showing people taking shelter during an air raid and 'At the Coal Face: A Miner Pushing a Tub', showing the vital work of miners during the war. Moore worked in stone, bronze and other materials.



Moore married an artist called Irina Radetsky in 1929 and in 1946, Irina had a baby. They named her Mary. The birth of his daughter led Moore to create many sculptures based on a mother and baby.

Moore's work was shown at the Festival of Britain in 1951. This was a celebration of British achievement in different areas.

In 1958, he sculpted a work called Reclining Figure that was displayed at the United Nations building in Paris. At 4.9 metres wide and 2.4 metres high, it was the largest sculpture he ever made. Another of his sculptures, Two Large Forms, was put in the West German parliament building in 1979.

Upright Internal/External Form, 1952 – 1953

In 1977, Henry, Irina and their daughter Mary created a charity called the Henry Moore Foundation. It was created to support artists and encourage education about art.

Moore died on 31st August 1986. His work continues to inspire artists all around the world.