

Henry Moore Exhibitions - Detailed Report



16 December 2022 - 26 August 2023

Venues

ST ALBANS, DONCASTER

Exhibition Title

2022-23 St Albans/Doncaster, Henry Moore: Drawing in the Dark

More Information

Over 100 drawings are shown alongside sculptures and other works on paper. Visitors are invited to journey from quick pencil sketches, through developmental drawings, finished pieces and finally to later works inspired by Moore's coalmining experience. Drawings from the four coalmining sketchbooks are presented to

demonstrate a range of techniques including pencil, ink and wax. Curated by University of Hertfordshire Arts + Culture programme, the exhibition takes inspiration from the new book, *Drawing in the Dark*, by art historian Chris Owen. The exhibition was first shown in the subterranean Weston Gallery of St Albans Museum + Gallery and now moves to Danum Gallery, Library and Museum.

Exhibition Info

Drawing in the Dark is the largest exhibition to date of Moore's coalmining drawings, completed in 1942 for the War Artists' Advisory Committee. When Moore was asked to record the coalminers working to power wartime Britain, he chose to visit the mine his father had worked in, Wheldale Colliery in Castleford, where he spent a week drawing from observation. Subsequently, he worked from memory to create the remaining drawings which were all completed within six months. This fascinating body of work reveals the back-breaking labour endured by nearly 3/4 million miners as they made their vital contribution to Britain's war effort, while also providing new insights into Moore's life and artistic process.