



Locking Piece

Catalogue Number

LH 515 cast 0

Artwork Type

Sculpture

Date

1962-63 cast 1963

Dimensions

artwork: 292 × 290 × 226 cm weight uncased: 3000 kg case: 302 × 264 × 328 cm

Medium

bronze

Signature

unsigned, [0/3]

Ownership

The Henry Moore Foundation: acquired 1987

More Information

Henry Moore selected organic forms as the basis for his most monumental works. In moving away from the human figure he

could embrace a non-figurative language and scale resulting in more abstract sculpture. Speaking a few years after Locking Piece was made, Moore commented that the idea originated from a sawn fragment of bone with a socket and joint that he found in the garden. Moore recognised that bones could have immense strength and were able to create dynamism from within. He commented: Force, power, is made by forms straining or pressing from inside. Knees, elbows, foreheads, knuckles, all seek to press outwards. Hardness, projection outwards, gives tension, force and vitality. Such vitality can be seen in the concentrated energy of Locking Piece with its tightly knotted forms around a central void. Its interlocking shapes reminded Moore of children's puzzles and of stones that locked together and became difficult to prise apart. The twisting nature of the combined forms encourages the viewer to circle the sculpture, which looks different from every angle.