

Know the Artist Henry Moore



Know the Artist by His Style

Characteristics unique to Henry Moore's abstract sculpture include simplified forms, curves that suggest the rolling hills of his native Yorkshire, and hollow spaces or openings. Most often the sculptures depict women, children, or family groups. Moore's large-scale works are designed for outdoor spaces.

The Artist

British sculptor Henry Moore was born in the coal-mining town of Castleford, Yorkshire, England, on July 30, 1895. After serving in the military during World War I, Moore was granted funds to attend Leeds School of Art in Northern England. He later won another scholarship to study sculpture at the Royal Academy of Art in London.

During World War II, Moore was living and working in London, England, and many other Londoners sought safety in underground shelters during the bombings. Moore passed the time drawing the people who shared the shelter with them. Before long, he was commissioned by the War Artists Advisory Committee to make larger, more idealized drawings of London civilians in the underground shelters. Moore's drawings introduced him to American audiences.

In 1946, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, presented Moore's work in a solo exhibition and then he won the coveted International Prize at the 1948 Venice Biennale. During the 1950s and 60s, Moore's reputation as a sculptor soared. He was commissioned to create many monumental public sculptures. He built a studio at his home, lived assistants, and used casting instead of carving techniques.

Henry Moore died at the age of 88. To honor his lengthy career and innumerable contributions to modern art, Henry Moore was named in the Artist's Corner at St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

Reclining Figure: Hand

1979. Shows an abstract human figure that is lying down, a common subject for Moore's sculpture. Another common characteristic is the paired opening that allows the viewer to see through the solid bronze form.

Know the Gallery

Two Piece Mirror Study

Edge, 1975-77. A bronze sculpture. The two pieces are joined at the top edge. The sculpture is 17 1/2 x 17 1/2 x 17 1/2 inches.

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Timeline

Year	Event
1895	Henry Moore is born in Castleford, Yorkshire, England.
1915	Moore serves in the military during World War I.
1918	Moore is granted funds to attend Leeds School of Art.
1921	Moore wins a scholarship to study sculpture at the Royal Academy of Art in London.
1946	The Museum of Modern Art, New York, presents Moore's work in a solo exhibition.
1948	Moore wins the International Prize at the Venice Biennale.
1950s-60s	Moore's reputation as a sculptor rises, and he is commissioned to create many monumental public sculptures.
1979	Moore creates 'Reclining Figure: Hand'.
1988	Henry Moore dies at the age of 88.
1990s	Moore is named in the Artist's Corner at St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

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Artwork Type
Archive Posters

Date
2009

Dimensions
paper: 610 x 457 mm

Ownership
Henry Moore Archive

More Information
This poster is one of a set produced by Crystal Productions on various artists. Each poster describes the artist, shows images of their works and provides some context in a timeline.