

HENRY MOORE: BIOGRAPHY

Henry Moore (1898-1986) was an internationally known and influential British sculptor of the post-war period. Often regarded as the father of modern British sculpture, Moore's large-scale bronze and marble sculptures can be found in public parks and plazas around the world. Working in various styles and mediums, Moore is perhaps best known for his highly abstract and interpretive renditions of the human figure, often portrayed in the reclining position. He returned again and again to the motifs of mother and child, and the reclining figure, while drawing analogies between the human body and the landscape. In addition to sculpting, he was a fine draughtsman, and his images of figures sheltering on subway platforms in London during World War II's bombing raids remain much loved.

He was influenced by Classical, Pre-Columbian, and African art, and by Surrealism; his biomorphic style has been compared that of Salvador Dalí and Jean Arp. Moore was a longtime friend and colleague of fellow sculptor Barbara Hepworth, having met at the Leeds School of Art around 1919. He also admired the work of Constantin Brancusi, whose organic abstract style resonated with Moore's belief that observation of nature is essential to artistic creation. Moore's interest in the landscape, and in nature, has encouraged the perception that he has deep roots in traditions of British art, yet his softly optimistic, redemptive view of humanity also brought him an international audience.