

Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist:	Henry Moore
Title:	Reclining Connected Form (1969)
Medium:	Bronze
Location:	Library Square, TCD (behind the Campanile)
Notes:	Donated by the artist 1971 (with support from TCD)

b. Yorkshire, England, 1898 – d. 1986, Hertfordshire

Henry Moore has said, "To be an artist is to believe in life." Certainly it was this great belief in and love of life that propelled him towards his chosen career. At the tender age of eleven, he made the conscious decision to become a sculptor after being exposed to the work of Michelangelo. However, the path to greatness did not run smoothly; after a brief period as a student teacher, he enlisted in the Civil Service Rifles, Fifteenth London Regiment at the age of eighteen. During service he was involved in the Battle of Cambrai and spent two months in hospital after a gas attack.

After becoming an Army Physical Training Instructor, he enrolled as the first student of sculpture at the Leeds School of Art. This was a period of great artistic growth and development. He was influenced by the work of modern artists, Cezanne, Van Gogh and Gauguin, and by "primitive" non-Western sculpture, among other things. However, he also studied classical art, being awarded a travel scholarship from the Royal College of Art (where he studied from 1921-4) in order to learn from masters such as Giotto, Donatello, and of course, his original inspiration, Michelangelo. This process of study allowed him to reject traditional models; he did not idealise the human form and stayed true to the materials he used. Critics, seeing it as brutalist, did not look on his early work favourably. However, all that soon changed and he was accepted into the modern canon of art. In 1934 the Museum of Modern Art, New York, borrowed two of his sculptures for their groundbreaking *Cubism and Abstract Art* exhibition. Interestingly, a few years later, the Director of the National Gallery, Sir Kenneth Clarke, appointed him as Official War Artist for World War II. His work grew enormously in popularity, and now he regarded as one of the most important British sculptors of the twentieth century.

Moore himself has commented on his *Reclining Connected Form* (a work that can be seen in the film, *Educating Rita*), remarking that:

In my sculpture there are three recurring themes: mother with child; the reclining figure; large form protecting small form. In this sculpture I have united all three motifs. I draw on human feelings, on the primary feelings of man. The need of protection is one of these feelings or primary instincts.

The information in this article was taken from:

http://www.henry-moore-fdn.co.uk/matrix_engine/content.php?page_id=3802

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