

The Roche Court Educational Trust

Learning Resources for Home and School

Sculpture can be found anywhere; you just have to look for it!

Focus on: Barbara Hepworth



Barbara Hepworth, 'The Family of Man' (three pieces from a series of nine), 1970. © AC Manley/Shutterstock.com



Barbara Hepworth, 'Summer Dance', 1972 © the artist and courtesy New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Park

About the Artist:

The sculptor Barbara Hepworth is considered by many to be the most influential female British artist of the 20th century. Born in Yorkshire in 1903, Hepworth left London at the outbreak of the Second World War and established herself in St Ives, Cornwall. Many of the simplified, organic, abstract forms and themes found in Hepworth's work can be linked to the Cornish landscape and coastline, and to journeys through the Yorkshire landscape with her father when she was a child. These experiences of sculptural forms in the landscape around her were a source of inspiration throughout her life.

The Roche Court Educational Trust is based at the New Art Centre in Salisbury, which represents the Barbara Hepworth Estate. The New Art Centre has worked closely with Barbara Hepworth's family on a global exhibitions and sales programme for over two decades. Hepworth's work is in many of the major museum collections throughout the world. Her studio in St Ives is now a museum dedicated to her work, owned and run by the Tate Gallery. Further to this, The Hepworth, a gallery in her home city of Wakefield, was named after her and opened in 2011.

This resource is intended to encourage all ages, from early years to adults, to look, think and make in ways that are influenced by Hepworth's iconic themes, style and methods.

"Perhaps what one wants to say is formed in childhood and the rest of one's life is spent trying to say it."
- **Barbara Hepworth**

Look, play, explore

Hepworth was first inspired by the seaside when she was a child on holiday in Whitby and Robin Hood's Bay.

"I crept out at dawn to collect stones and seaweeds, and paint and draw by myself before somebody organised me" - Barbara Hepworth

As an adult, she was inspired by the Cornish landscape and coastline in St Ives. Her work often incorporated smooth, natural shapes, reminiscent of rolling hills, rocks or pebbles.

1. Collect and arrange

Collect and identify round, smooth objects in your house or garden. (Examples: pebbles, a beaded necklace, a ball, an egg.) Explore textures and surfaces. Use a bucket, bag or similar to gather your collections!

Arrange, organise and curate your objects. Perhaps by shape, size, type, colour or any category you choose.

Draw, paint or photograph your objects.

Think about the background! Hepworth was really interested in her sculptures' relationship to landscape. We photographed ours in the



garden to make them look big! You could draw or paint a background to make your objects look like sculptures in a landscape.

1. Looking through

Hepworth was really interested in the relationship between solid form and open space. Putting a hole through the middle of her sculptures was a new idea to make 'negative' or empty space an important part of her sculptures.

Look for things in your home that have holes that you can look through. (Examples: a colander, toilet roll tube, a drinking glass, washing machine door or sellotape!) Have fun looking and playing, and talk about what you can see.

Create cardboard frames or viewfinders. Decorate them and use them to look closely at interesting pictures or objects in your home or out of the window.

Draw or paint pictures of your view through these holes!



2. Making holes

The inside of Hepworth's forms was just as important to her as the outside.

Use clay, playdough or salt dough to mould a 3D organic shapes, then carve out a hole or multiple holes through the middle!

If you don't have any playdough, here's a really simple recipe:
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/playdough-recipe>

Salt dough is another good option as it can be baked in the oven and can then be painted. Here is an easy recipe:
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-make-salt-dough-recipe>

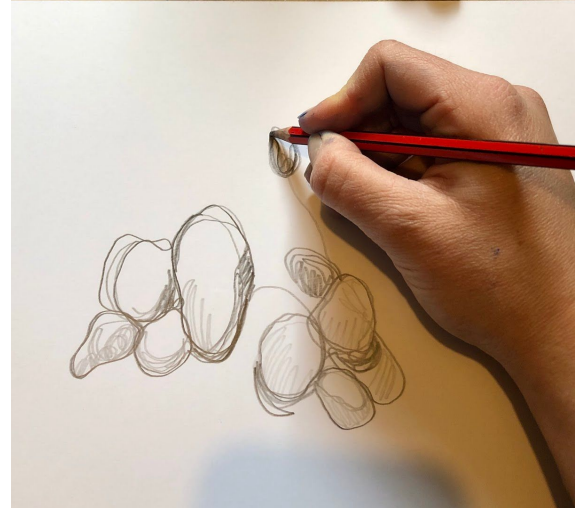
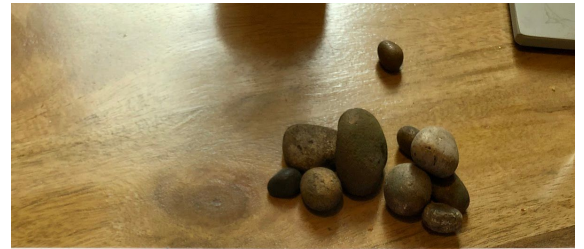


Investigate and make

1. Continuous line drawing

Curves, planes and lines are all vital to Hepworth's work. She sometimes carved lines into her sculptures and also used straight and curved lines in her compositions on paper to create the illusion of space. She often pierced holes in her sculptures and threaded string between surfaces, forming taught, straight lines across negative spaces.

Use a pen or pencil to make a continuous line drawing of an object or image of your choice. The only rule is that you must not lift your pen or pencil off the paper!

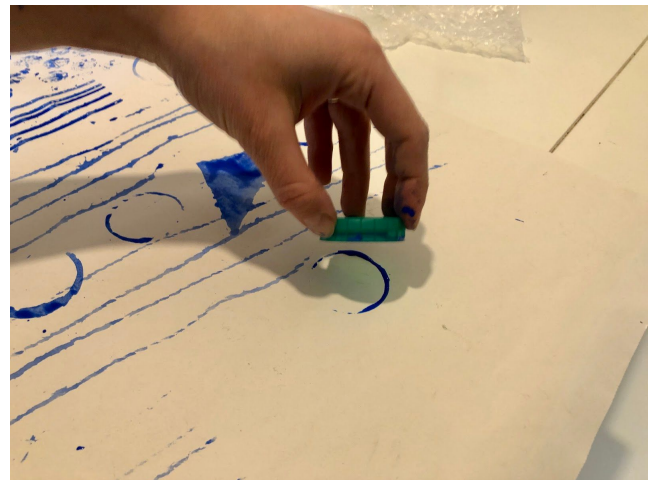


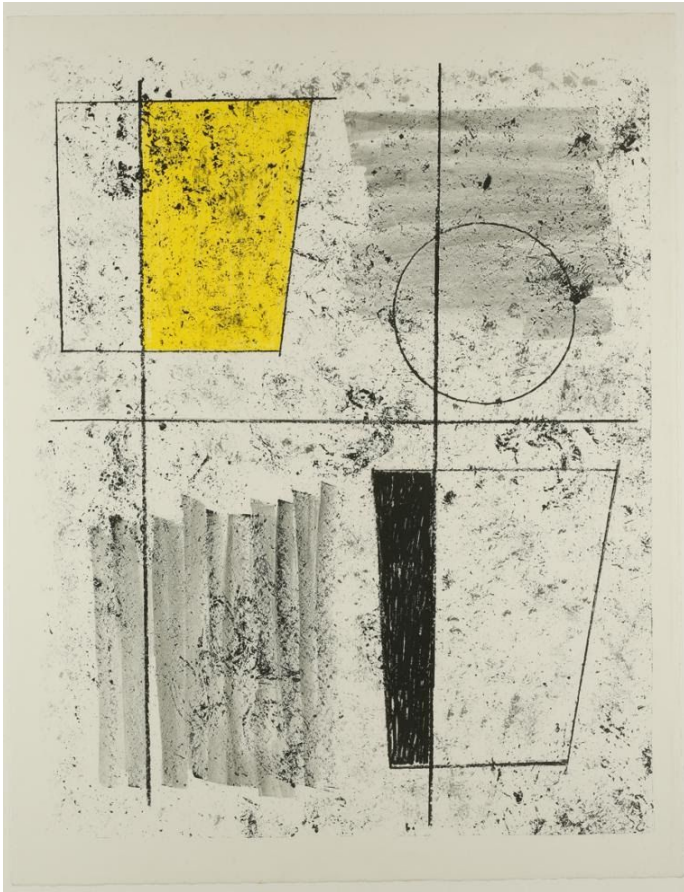
2. Printing

Use objects you have at home to make your own prints in the style of Barbara Hepworth.

Bottle tops and shapes cut from cardboard boxes can be used to make stamps, whilst string, bubble wrap or cling film can be wrapped and stuck around toilet roll tubes to make printing rollers. Dip in paint and roll on paper! What else can you find that you could use to make a print?

Think carefully about your composition and look at Hepworth's artworks for inspiration.





Left: Barbara Hepworth, 'Three Forms Assembling', 1968-9 © the artist and courtesy New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Park
Right: Barbara Hepworth, 'Porthmeor', 1969 © the artist and courtesy New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Park

Develop and discuss

Look at Barbara Hepworth's artworks online (you could use the links in the section below).

Choose one artwork that stands out to you and write down some key words, ideas and thoughts.

Prompts: What do the shapes remind you of? What material is the artwork made from? What are the key themes? Do you like or dislike this artwork?

Challenge yourself to talk about the artwork continuously for two minutes without stopping!

One step further:

If you are in Year 10 or 11, why not consider entering the Discover ARTiculation Challenge?

Choose any piece of artwork by any artist, research your chosen piece and make some notes of your own ideas and opinions. Make a short 2 or 3 minute film of yourself talking about the artwork and submit it to the competition. More details here:

<https://artsoutreach.leeds.ac.uk/whats-on-offer/discover-articulation-challenge/>

Reading, listening and further research

- An online catalogue of the New Art Centre's current Hepworth exhibition, a newly curated selection of polished bronzes and work in silver can be seen here:
<https://sculpture.uk.com/programme/barbara-hepworth/>
- The brilliant new Sculpting Lives podcast! The first episode delved into the life and legacy of Barbara Hepworth. Listen here or on your favourite podcast app:
<https://artuk.org/discover/stories/sculpting-lives-podcast-barbara-hepworth>
- Hepworth on Google Arts and Culture: <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/jglyT34WAP-eLg>
- Tate Shots - a great short film exploring her writing and letters in Tate's archive:
<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/dame-barbara-hepworth-1274/barbara-hepworth-letters-tateshots>
- A TOAST magazine review of a recent exhibition at Heong Gallery, exploring Hepworth's use of line:
<https://www.toa.st/magazine/barbara-hepworth-a-line-of-enquiry.htm>

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