

Artist Resources – Dame Barbara Hepworth (British, 1903-1975)

[Barbara Hepworth Estate](#)

[Hepworth at the Tate](#)

[The Hepworth Wakefield Museum](#)

[Hepworth at the National Museum of Women in the Arts](#)



Hepworth, 1949
Photograph: Hans Wild

Visit the [Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden](#) in St. Ives, Cornwall, England, where you can walk through her home, studio, and garden. Watch a video about her sculpture garden in St. Ives on [YouTube](#).

Watch a TateShots video about Hepworth's [inspiration](#) from natural landscapes and environmental forms.

Read a "Writings and Conversations" compilation of [Hepworth's quotes](#) from articles, essays, and interviews from 1933 to 1975.

In 1968, the Tate Gallery installed an exhibition of Hepworth's sculptures. Read a [Tate Paper](#) that closely examines the exhibition and the archival documents included.

Watch a [1972 interview](#) with Hepworth by British Pathe.

[Barbara Hepworth: Sculpture for a Modern World](#) at the Tate Britain in 2015 was the first major retrospective of the artist's work since her death in 1975. Read a review in the [Guardian](#) by Sarah Crompton, "Barbara Hepworth Finally Gets Her Due" and another in the [London Magazine](#) by Thea Hawlin, "'I The Sculptor am the Landscape': Barbara Hepworth's Roots of Stone."

Watch an ["Animating the Archives"](#) video by the Tate exploring the archival records the museum holds about the artist and her sculptures.

In 2019, the [Musée Rodin](#) hosted Hepworth's first solo exhibition in Paris, contextualizing her work within the history of modernist French sculpture.

Hepworth's first solo exhibition in Amsterdam was installed in the [Rijksmuseum's gardens](#) in 2022.

Barbara Hepworth: Art & Life was organized by the [Hepworth Wakefield](#) in 2021 to commemorate the museum's tenth anniversary. The major retrospective featured more than 120 works and traveled to both the [National Galleries of Scotland](#) and the [Tate St. Ives](#). Read a [review](#) in the Guardian by Rachel Cooke, in which she calls the exhibition "a blockbuster of diminishing returns."



Hepworth installing *Single Form* in the Palais de Danse, St. Ives, 1961
Photograph: Studio St. Ives

Dame Barbara Hepworth (British, 1903-1975)

Three Standing Forms, 1965

Roman stone, on a wooden base, unique

Private Collection; L2025:7.1

Born in Wakefield, England, Dame Barbara Hepworth studied at the male-dominated Royal College of Art in the 1920s. When World War II broke out, she moved to St. Ives in Cornwall, where she became a leading figure in the artist colony that grew in the area. Her abstract geometric works made a major impact on Modernist sculpture in the UK, and she was awarded DBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in 1965. **Three Standing Forms** was produced the same year, when she was particularly interested in ancient landscapes and prehistoric stone circles. The artist often worked in sets of three, inspired by her triplets born in 1934.

On view May 8 – August 11, 2025





Dame Barbara Hepworth (British, 1903-1975)
Orpheus (Maquette I), conceived 1956
Brass with strings

Private Collection; L2022:32.1

British sculptor Dame Barbara Hepworth won a scholarship to attend the male-dominated Royal College of Art in London in the early 1920s. Interested in geometric forms and intersections of art and science, Hepworth became known for her modernist works in stone, wood, and metals. **Orpheus (Maquette I)** is the first preparatory sculpture the artist made in anticipation of a large-scale commission, titled *Theme on Electronics*, for the electronics firm Mullard Ltd. in Bloomsbury. Instead of heat, the sculpture's metal was bent with a "cold rolling" process using a piece of wood to curl the brass instead of heat. Hepworth's decision to use sheet metal in this project marked a profound shift in her practice away from stone carving and towards metals, a change in materials that continued throughout her later career.

On view July 27 – November 13, 2022