

## **The Wallace Collection - New Exhibition Announcement:**

### ***Henry Moore: The Helmet Heads***

**6 March - 23 June 2019**

**Tickets on sale from 15 January 2019**

*Organised with the Henry Moore Foundation*

In March 2019, the Wallace Collection presents *Henry Moore: The Helmet Heads* - the first major exhibition to explore the great twentieth-century British sculptor's fascination with armour. Ground-breaking new research reveals that Moore's long relationship with the Wallace Collection directly inspired the creation of his celebrated *Helmet Head* sculptures, which are shown here together for the very first time.

Presented in collaboration with the Henry Moore Foundation, the exhibition uncovers the previously unknown role of specific helmets and armour from the Wallace Collection in influencing Moore's ideas and creations. This is the first time that Moore's helmet-related works, comprising over sixty sketches, drawings, maquettes and full-sized sculptures in plaster, lead and bronze, have been comprehensively assembled, to be juxtaposed with the Renaissance armour that inspired them.

Moore's awareness of armour can be traced back to his childhood encounters with medieval funerary effigies in Yorkshire churches and his military service as a machine-gunner and bayonet instructor during the First World War. After arriving as an art-student in London in 1921, he began regular study visits to the national museums, including the Wallace Collection. In correspondence and interviews throughout his life, Moore referred to the 'many hours' he spent at the Wallace Collection, and he was always explicitly clear that he came here to study armour.

Moore's numerous visits to the Wallace Collection Armoury in the 1930s and 40s produced a large number of helmet studies- drawings. These developed his abstract ideas on the themes of power, strength, protection and vulnerability, forming the conceptual basis for his *Helmet Head* sculptures. The exhibition charts the development of his intense exploration of armour as pure sculptural form, featuring works created at all key stages of his career, including *The Helmet* (1939-40), *Helmet Head and Shoulders* (1952) and *Helmet Head Nos. 1-6* (1950-81).

The exhibition also explores the wider impact of armour upon Moore's imagination. Alongside works from the Wallace Collection, it features pieces as diverse as an ancient Greek helmet dating from the 7<sup>th</sup>-century BC and the helmets of Moore's own wartime experiences during 1916-18, echoes of which can be seen in his sculptures. It illustrates how armour and what it represents permeates all of the core themes of Moore's work, including his reclining figures, the mother and child, and the concept of internal/external forms.

Dr Tobias Capwell, Curator of Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection, said:

*"Henry Moore: The Helmet Heads* explores the intimate relationship between Henry Moore's helmet sculptures and armour in the Wallace Collection. It provides a unique insight into Moore's artistic practice and also enables visitors to look at and understand armour in new and unexpected ways, to discover it as an expressive art form in its own right."

Dr Xavier Bray, Director of the Wallace Collection, said:

“We are delighted to work with the Henry Moore Foundation to present this very special exhibition. Moore’s helmet-related works and his interest in armour reflect his preoccupation with the universal themes of war and peace, which have renewed relevance for contemporary audiences. It’s possible to view these extraordinary artworks as Moore’s answer to Picasso’s *Guernica* – an artistic cry for peace in a turbulent world.”

Godfrey Worsdale, Director of the Henry Moore Foundation, said:

“Henry Moore’s early career was immeasurably enriched by exposure to art and artefacts in national collections. The astonishing collection of arms and armour at the Wallace Collection had a profound influence upon his Helmet Head works, a theme he returned to at a number of different points in his career. We’re thrilled to be working in partnership to shine a light on this aspect of Moore’s work.”

ENDS

### **Notes to Editor**

For further press information please contact Eleanor Nimmo on [press@wallacecollection.org](mailto:press@wallacecollection.org) / 0207 563 9516

### **Tickets**

Exhibition tickets will be on sale from the Wallace Collection website from 15 January 2019: [www.wallacecollection.org](http://www.wallacecollection.org)

### **Membership**

Members of the Wallace Collection enjoy free unlimited entry to all Wallace Collection exhibitions, as well as exclusive previews, private views and special events, plus discounts in the Wallace Collection Shop and Restaurant. For further information please visit: [www.wallacecollection.org/support-us/become-a-member/](http://www.wallacecollection.org/support-us/become-a-member/)

### **Opening hours**

Open daily 10am-5pm.

### **Catalogue**

To accompany this highly original exhibition, the Wallace Collection will publish a fully illustrated catalogue in association with Philip Wilson Publishers. The book will present lead essays by Dr Hannah Higham and Dr Tobias Capwell giving fascinating insight into Moore’s visits to the Wallace Collection. It will explore the medieval armour that inspired him, and the development of his Helmet Head series, along with wider consideration of the impact this had on the themes and motifs throughout his work. Illustrating nearly 100 works, the publication will showcase juxtapositions between Moore’s sculpture and drawing in dialogue with the armour he drew such inspiration from, to provide fresh appreciation of one of the greatest artists of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century.

## **Social Media**

Join the conversation here:

Instagram: [@wallacemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/wallacemuseum)

Facebook: [@wallacecollection](https://www.facebook.com/wallacecollection)

Twitter: [@WallaceMuseum](https://twitter.com/WallaceMuseum)

#HelmetHeads

## **Events**

A series of events including lectures, seminars, art classes and performances have been organised in relation to this exhibition. Find out more: [wallacecollection.org/whats-on](http://wallacecollection.org/whats-on)

## **About the Wallace Collection**

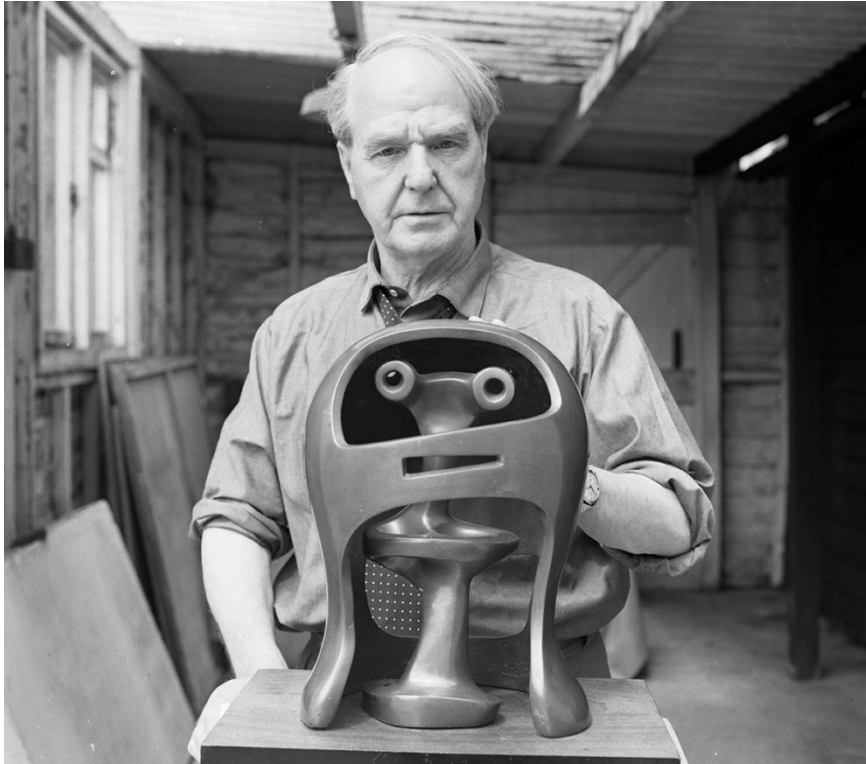
The Wallace Collection is one of the most significant collections of European fine and decorative arts in the world and the greatest bequest of art ever left to the British Nation. The collection encompasses old master oil paintings from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century including works by Titian, Velazquez, Rubens and Van Dyck, princely arms and armour, and one of the finest collections of French 18<sup>th</sup>-century art in all media.

[www.wallacecollection.org](http://www.wallacecollection.org)

Image Sheet

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Portrait of Henry Moore with *Helmet Head No. 2* (LH281)  
Reproduced by permission of the Henry Moore Foundation  
Photo: John Hedgecoe, 1967



Sallet or *Barbuta*  
North Italian, c. 1450  
© The Wallace Collection



*Helmet Head No. 1* 1950 bronze (LH 279 cast 5).  
Photograph ©Tate, London 2018  
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