

Sculptors' Papers from the Henry Moore Institute Archive

22 September 2014 – 22 February 2015

Whitechapel Gallery, Pat Matthews Gallery (Gallery 4)

Free entry

The stories behind some of London's most radical public sculptures are traced in a display drawing on the Henry Moore Institute's rich collection of sculptors' papers in Leeds, England. The exhibition sheds new light on sculpture in the capital, charting the creative process, political debates and critical responses surrounding realised and unrealised works from the early twentieth century onwards.

Highlights include **Laurence Bradshaw's** (1899-1978) iconic *Karl Marx Memorial* (1956) which stands in Highgate Cemetery in north London. A pilgrimage site for international socialist leaders and politicians over the past 50 years, the monument has also been a target for attacks and demonstrations, including damage from homemade bomb explosions in the 1970s.

Also featured are plans for **Alfred Frank Hardiman's** (1891-1949) imposing equestrian sculpture of World War I Field Marshall Douglas Haig, commissioned by Parliament in 1928. One of the last of its kind, the sculpture which stands in Whitehall, London, was widely criticised when unveiled, with the horse-mounted commander seen as outdated in a new age of mechanical warfare.

Rare photographs from the Henry Moore Institute archives of **Jacob Epstein** (1880-1959) featuring his famous *British Medical Association* sculptures (1908-1937) are included in the display. The series of 8ft high nude statues symbolising the ages of man were Epstein's first major commission, installed on the façade of the British Medical Association in The Strand, London. Considered by some as highly offensive when unveiled, the controversial sculptures were destroyed in the 1930s. In an investigation into changing attitudes to public sculpture, artist **Neal White's** (b. 1966) *The Third Campaign* (2004-5) reinvigorates Epstein's unsuccessful battles to protect the works, through demonstrations, letters and photographs.

The conception and planning of other unconventional sculptural projects are revealed, including *Power for the People* (1972) by **Rose Finn-Kelcey** (1945-2014), which proposed large flags bearing the phrase being mounted on prominent buildings along the Thames.

Unrealised proposals such as the *Temple of Universal Ethics*, an ambitious architectural development designed by Croatian sculptor **Oscar Nemon** (1906-1985) to promote international relations and British-Romanian artist **Paul Neagu's** (1938-2004) unrealised *Starhead* (1986) monument will also be explored in the display.

Sculptors' Papers from the Henry Moore Institute Archive is part of the Whitechapel Gallery's ongoing programme of displays presenting guest archives and drawing from the Whitechapel Gallery's own history. A series of events including screenings, talks and tours will accompany the exhibition.

Press Release

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Notes to editors

- *Sculptors' Papers from the Henry Moore Institute Archive* is drawn from the Henry Moore Institute Archive of Sculptors' Papers, a collection developed in a unique partnership between the Henry Moore Institute and Leeds Museums and Galleries. The Henry Moore Institute is a part of The Henry Moore Foundation, set up by the sculptor Henry Moore (1898-1986) in 1977 to encourage appreciation of the visual arts, especially sculpture.
- The display has been co-curated by Nayia Yiakoumaki, Curator Archive Gallery at the Whitechapel Gallery; Lisa Le Feuvre, Head of Sculpture Studies at the Henry Moore Institute and Jon Wood, Research Curator at the Henry Moore Institute with Bryony Harris, Assistant Curator; Special Projects at the Whitechapel Gallery.
- The Whitechapel Gallery archive exhibitions are generously supported by Catherine and Franck Petitgas and The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

Visitor Information

Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 6pm, Thursdays, 11am – 9pm.
Admission free. Whitechapel Gallery, 77 – 82 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX. Nearest London Underground Station: Aldgate East, Liverpool Street, Tower Gateway DLR. T + 44 (0) 20 7522 7888 info@whitechapelgallery.org
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