BARBARA
HEPWORTH
ART SKETCH
Ages 6+
Barbara Hepworth (1903–1975) was one of the most important artists of the twentieth century. This exhibition maps out the artist’s life story through her art.

She made sculptures, drawings and paintings that took inspiration from lots of places.

These activities are designed to help you stop, take notice and create your own sketches to inspire your own sculptures and installations – inspired by what’s around you.

We’d love to see how you get on. Upload your art here:

Look around.
What shapes can you see?
Is there one shape that is more common than others?

Hepworth said that by making holes in her sculpture she could do three things:

1. Show the inside of the sculpture as well as the outside

She made these sculptures by hand. In her time, Hepworth was criticised for making art that was finished so nicely that people thought it was made by machine!

Look closely at the sculptures, can you see any marks from tools? How do you think she made these marks?
Hepworth loved natural light – and how it can bring objects to life. Lots of these sculptures were made for bright, airy spaces or outdoors. Can you imagine how some of the sculptures might create interesting shadows, or gather rainwater?

2. Let light travel through the sculpture, through some of the heavy materials like stone, wood and metal

We can’t touch these sculptures today - even clean hands cause damage - but have a go at moving around the space, peeking through the holes and looking at it from upside down...

Do you think it would feel cool to the touch? Smooth, jaggy, rough? Write down a few words to sum up your thoughts:

3. Encourage the viewer to look through the hole and see different views, beyond


Barbara Hepworth with the Gift plaster of Figure for Landscape and a bronze cast of Figure (Archaean) November 1964. © Bowness Photo: Lucien Myers.
Hepworth liked to represent human figures in an abstract way, too.

Can you find any sculptures or paintings in the exhibition that look like human figures?

**Draw your own family of abstract figures.**

Think about ‘negative space’, too (the bits around and between the object). How would adding a hole change your drawing? If you have modelling dough at home, why not turn your drawing into a sculpture?
Sculptures disguised as drawings...

By the time you’ve reached this room, you’ll have seen LOTS of different textures and materials. How many, would you guess?

During the Second World War, materials for sculptures were hard to come by and so most of Hepworth’s art during this time was created on paper.

Fill your sketchbook with shapes, sounds and marks from around you.

You could have a go at making a continuous line drawing of an object, sculpture, or person you can see. The only rule is you must not lift your pencil off the paper!

Remember that your drawings don’t have to look exactly like something, or someone – this is about capturing a movement, or an element of their character.
Some of Hepworth’s favourite memories included journeys in the countryside. Lots of her sculptures are smooth shapes that you could find in nature that might remind you of shorelines, rocks, pebbles, fields and hills.

She was also interested in movement. Some of the sculptures in this room would be put on rubber-wheeled plinths and ‘danced’ around her studio!

Use this space to sketch your favourite sculptures and paintings in the exhibition.

What do they remind you of?
Act of Praise

In 1969 the first crewed moon landing took place. The moon became a repeated presence in her work.

How many can you spot in this room? Draw your favourite: