

**BARBARA HEPWORTH: *Drawings from the 1940s***  
**Wednesday 12 October – Friday 18 November 2005**



*Portrait of Lisa, 1949*  
Oil and pencil on board, 15 x 10 inches

A major loan exhibition of oils, watercolours and drawings by Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975), one of the leading figures in 20<sup>th</sup> century British art, will be held at Hazlitt Holland-Hibbert, 38 Bury Street, St James's, London SW1 from 12 October – 18 November.

This will be the first major show to be devoted entirely to the artist's painting and drawing for over 50 years. All the works are on loan from private or public collections, including Hepworth's *Self Portrait* from the National Portrait Gallery and a group of examples from the Hepworth Estate. Many will be exhibited publicly for the first time.

Co-curated by the artist's grand-daughter, Sophie Bowness and James Holland-Hibbert, the works in the exhibition all date from the 1940s and bring together the full range and breadth of Hepworth's draughtsmanship. The exhibition is divided into three separate themes – abstract studies, figure drawings and the hospital operations series.

Best known as a sculptor, Hepworth produced a series of oils and drawings that reveal an intuitive and sympathetic feel for a medium that the artist is not so often associated with. Their importance lies in the context in which they were produced and the way in which a sculptor uses drawing and painting as a means of generating sculptural ideas.

The abstract studies, for example, reveal Hepworth's exploration of ideas about space and rhythm, usually associated with constructivism, that became important not only to her carving after the war but also the whole language of sculpture.

Perhaps the most remarkable series of drawings in the exhibition are the figure studies and, in particular, surgeons at work in the Exeter orthopaedic hospital which reveal what the artist herself described as an '*extraordinary beauty of purpose and co-ordination between human beings all dedicated to the saving of human life*'. An exceptional work from this series will be loaned by The Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter as well as the only large-scale oil, which will be loaned from the Collection of the Royal College of Surgeons.

This exhibition follows on from the recent highly successful loan exhibitions at Hazlitt Holland-Hibbert of *Henry Moore: Drawings from the Henry Moore Foundation* and *Augustus John: Master Works from Private Collections*.

Exhibition hours are Monday – Friday, 9am – 5.30pm. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated colour catalogue. Admission is free.

(ENDS)

April 2005