

Daniel Katz Gallery

ANTIQUITY TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY



Henry Moore (Castleford 1898 - Much Hadham 1986)

Helmet Head: Interior/Exterior Forms

Circa: 1950

1950

Pencil crayon and watercolour on paper

39.4 x 57.1 cm (15 1/2 x 22 1/2 inches)

Signed lower left: Moore, 1950

'Helmet Head: Interior/Exterior Forms' (1950) belongs to a series of drawings made by Henry Moore between 1948 and 1950. These drawings mark the beginning of an aesthetic that places outer protective structures around interior forms – a defining characteristic of Moore's mature sculptural work – and reflect the artist's interest in helmets and armour. Recalling his time as a student at the Royal College of Art in the 1920s, Moore has stated that: 'the idea of one form inside another form may owe some of its incipient beginnings to my interest at one stage when I discovered armour. I spent many hours in the Wallace Collection, in London, looking at armour'.

Here, the curved outer forms of the helmets represented in the drawing resemble the German 'Stahlhelm', or 'coal scuttle' helmet, which Moore had seen in action during the First World War after enlisting in the British Army in 1917. Moore has added ears to the central, green helmet, a retention of recognisable facial elements that heightens the tension between mechanical and human.

He has further organically mutated the openings of the other helmets to offer an interplay between

the humanised helmet and its interior form. In doing so, Moore echoes the Surrealist notion of the supposed duplicity between our experience of the outer world and the working of the inner eye of the mind. Through these drawings, Moore explores variants of the forms that he goes on to make in bronze in 'Helmet Head No.1' (1950), held in the Tate collection, and in lead in 'Helmet Head No. 2' (1950), which is held in the collection of the Saatsgalerie Stuttgart.

Provenance

Curt Valentin, New York

Mr and Mrs Harold X. Weinstein

Felix Landau Gallery, Los Angeles

Dr and Mrs David Elterman (acquired from the above, 1959)

The Estates of Dr and Mrs David Elterman

Lillian Heidenberg Fine Art, New York

Waddington Custot, London to 2024

Acquired from the above.

Exhibitions

'Henry Moore: Sculpture and Drawings from Chicago Collections', Arts Club of Chicago, USA, 1959-60, catalogue no.78.

'Henry Moore in Southern California', Los Angeles County Museum of Art, USA, 2nd October – 18th November 1973 (ex-catalogue).

'Henry Moore: Sculpture & Drawings', Waddington Galleries, London, 6th - 30th September 2006.

'Henry Moore: The Helmet Heads' The Wallace Collection, London, 6th March – 23rd June 2019, catalogue no.43, pp. 91 & 92 (repro. in colour [11] & 93).