

RALPH BROWN RA

b. 1928; Leeds, d. 2013

BIOGRAPHY

- 1928 Born in Leeds, Yorkshire, the youngest of three brothers
- 1939-46 Leeds Grammar School
- 1946-48 Service in the Royal Air Force
- 1948-51 Leeds School of Art
- 1951 Hammersmith School of Art. Studied under Leon Underwood, Percy Brown and Keith Godwin. First visited Paris, went to Musée Rodin, saw work by Germaine Richier, met Alberto Giacometti. Travelled to see the cave paintings at Lascaux, Dordogne and in Spain
Married Margaret Taylor in 1952
- 1952-56 Royal College of Art Sculpture School, studied at first under Frank Dobson then John Skeaping and Heinz Henghes. Son Matthew born in 1953.
- 1954 John Skeaping arranged studentship exchange to Paris - John Berger put him in contact with Raymond Mason. Brown spent five months living in Mason's attic studio off Boulevard St Michel, and was a student at L'Académie de la Grande Chaumière in the atelier of Ossip Zadkine. Whilst in Paris, met Germaine Richier, and Giacometti again and visited reserves at Rodin's Meudon studio. Visited Holland and stayed with the sculptor Mari Andriessen.
- 1955 Met Jacob Epstein and became frequent visitor to his studio.
Henry Moore visited Young Contemporaries exhibition at the RBA Galleries and bought *Mother and Child* 1954 in bronze. Leeds City Art Gallery and Arts Council also bought bronzes of *Mother and Child*. Travel scholarship from RCA to Greece. RCA thesis on Rodin and Medardo Rosso published.
Daughter Sara born.
- 1956-58 Taught at Bournemouth College of Art. Met Caroline, a student who was later to become his second wife.
- 1957 Boise scholarship to Italy. Worked in Cannes making mosaics with Hjalmar Boyesen for Picasso. Visited Marino Marini, Giacomo Manzù, Emilio Greco and Pericle Fazzini.
- 1958-73 Tutor at The Royal College of Art.
- 1958 Moved with Caroline to Digswell Arts Centre, community of artists and craftsmen (including Michael Andrews, Hans Coper, Peter Collingwood, Peter Snow, John Wragg, John Mills)
- 1959 John Moore's Liverpool Exhibition, (2nd Prize for *Meat Porters*)
Started swimming series.
- 1960 Tate Gallery purchased *Swimming* 1959-60
- 1961 First solo exhibition at the Leicester Galleries, London
Motif feature by Bryan Robertson published
- 1963 Left Digswell and moved to Cotswolds,
Second solo exhibition at Leicester Galleries
- 1964 Summerson Panel Member and through the 60's was a visiting lecturer at several provincial art schools including Bristol, Cheltenham, Nottingham and Oxford. Married to Caroline. Kenneth Cook worked as assistant and subsequently as bronze founder.
- 1965 Son Jasper born.
- 1968 Elected Associate of the Royal Academy of Arts

- 1972 Elected Royal Academician.
Professor of Sculpture at Salzburg Summer Academy of Fine Arts (at the suggestion of Kenneth Armitage). Spent Christmas and New Year with Elisabeth Frink in France while house-hunting in the Cévennes.
- 1973 Gave up all teaching in UK and moved studio and family to large derelict farmhouse high in Cévennes mountains, South of France. Joined there by assistant Michael Werbicki.
- 1975 Returned to UK to a rented cottage near Cirencester.
- 1976 Moved to Bath. Werbicki continued to work with Ken Cook on bronzes. Taught part-time at Bristol Art School
- 1978 Moved back to the Cotswolds, to an old farmhouse near Cirencester. Converted the barn into studio.
- 1981 Moved to Seynckley, a mediaeval manor house near Stroud, using a studio designed by Arts and Crafts architect Sydney Barnsley. Also built a new studio. Used the mediaeval hall as gallery.
- 1982 Revisited Athens, Hydra and Mycenae in Greece
- 1984 Exhibited in Chicago and Columbus, Ohio after New York exhibition
- 1988 Major retrospective exhibition at Henry Moore Galleries, Leeds City Art Gallery, then at Warwick University Arts Centre
- 1989 Nearly bought house and studio built by Max Ernst in Provence, but finally decided to stay in England
- 1992 Moved to a mediaeval hall house in the Severn Vale, built new studio in the grounds.
- 1993 Began association with Pangolin Foundry and Gallery, Stroud
- 1994 Made his only animal sculpture, a life sized portrait of the gorilla 'Jambo' for Gerald Durrell's Jersey Zoo.
- 1997 Started working on marble carvings using Studio Sem in Pietrasanta, Italy
- 1998 Moved to a small farm in the Cotswold hills, building a new house and converting farm buildings into studios.
- 2007 Revisited some early works, and with encouragement from Rungwe Kingdon and support from Pangolin Editions, was at last able to start making the large versions.
- 2009 Retrospective exhibition at Pangolin London, Kings Place,
- 2013 Ralph Brown dies

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *Ralph Brown. A Memorial Exhibition*, Pangolin London
- 2009 *Ralph Brown at 80: Early Decades Revisited*, Pangolin London
- 2005 Number Nine Gallery, Birmingham
- 1999 Bruton Gallery, Leeds
- 1996 Alpha House Gallery, Sherborne, Dorset
- 1995 Falle Fine Art, St Helier, Jersey
- 1988 *Ralph Brown Sculpture and Drawings*, The Henry Moore Centre for the Study of Sculpture, Leeds City Art Gallery and Mead Gallery, University of Warwick Arts Centre
- 1987 Eton Art Gallery, Eton
Beaux Arts, Bath
- 1986 Solomon Gallery, London
- 1985 Long Island Gallery, New York
- 1984 Charles Foley Gallery, Columbus, Ohio
Lloyd Shine Gallery, Chicago
- 1983 Beaux Arts, Bath
Puck Building, New York
- 1979 Browse and Darby, London
- 1976 Robert Welch Gallery, Chipping Camden
Taranman Gallery, London
- 1975 Galerie Het Multiples, Marseille
Oxford Gallery, Oxford

1974 Galerie Dortindeguey, Montpellier
 1973 Gunther Franke, Munich
 Robert Welch Gallery, Chipping Camden
 Festival Gallery, Bath
 1972 Archer Gallery, London
 Traklhaus Galerie, Salzburg
 1971 Form International, London
 1964 Bangor University
 Forum Gallery, Bristol
 1963 & 1961 Leicester Galleries, London

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016 *Ralph Brown & The Figure in the Fifties and Sixties*, Pangolin London
 2014 *Crucible - 2*, Gloucester Cathedral
From Downs to Sea: A Slice of Life, Brighton Museum & Art Gallery
 2013 *Artists Make Faces*, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery
 2012 *Sculptors' Drawings & Works on Paper*, Pangolin London
Re-Figured, Hilton Fine Art, Bath,
Exorcising the Fear: British Sculpture from the 1950s, Pangolin London
 2011 *Sculpture in the Garden celebrates a decade*, University of Leicester Botanical Gardens
 2008 *Revitalism*, Gallery Pangolin, Chalford
Sterling Stuff II, Pangolin London, Kings Place.
 2007 *Sculpture in the Garden*, University of Leicester
Summer Exhibition, Royal Academicians at 108 Fine Art, Harrogate
 2006 *The Drawing Room', Royal West of England Academy*, Bristol
 2005 *Out of the Melting Pot*, Dexia Banque Internationale, Luxembourg
Artists of fame and promise, Bohun Gallery, Henley
 Nature in Art Museum and Art Gallery, Gloucestershire
Body Language, Gallery Pangolin
 2004 *The Lionel Phillips Collection*, Atkinson Gallery, Millfield, Somerset
 2003 *Tooth and Claw*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol
Sterling Stuff, Reykjavik, Iceland
 Eastnor Castle *Sculpture in a landscape*
 2002 *Sterling Stuff*, Gallery Pangolin, Stroud
 2001 *Vitalism*, Gallery Pangolin, Stroud
 Eastnor Castle Open Air sculpture
 2000 *Sculpture 2000 at Milton Keynes*, Milton Keynes NHS Trust
 Kunst Zonder Grenzen, Kunstergalerij, Antwerp
Best of Bruton Gallery, at 27 Cork Street, London
Sculpture at Goodwood West Sussex (until 2008)
 1999 *Less is More*, Gallery Pangolin, Stroud
Four by Four, Bruton Gallery, Leeds
Sculpture in Paradise, Chichester Festival
 Royal Academicians in Wales, Albany Gallery, Cardiff
Shape of the Century-100 years of Sculpture in Britain, Salisbury Cathedral
 and at Canary Wharf, London
Forming the Figure, Bruton Gallery, Leeds
 1996 *Monumental '96*, Park Henri Lannoye, Antwerp, Belgium
 1995 *Sculpture in Paradise*, Chichester Festival
 The City Gallery, London
 1994 Adam Gallery, Bath

Alma Gallery, Bristol
 Redfern Gallery, London
 Sladmore Gallery, London (Drawings)

1993 *Chelsea Harbour Sculpture*, London
 Bruton Street Gallery, London

1992 Hannah Peschar Gallery
 Adam Gallery, Bath

1991 *Modern British Sculpture*, Beaux Arts, Bath
Donald Hamilton Fraser's Personal Choice, Bohun Gallery, Henley
 Courcoux & Courcoux, Salisbury
 Bohun Gallery, Henley

1987 *20th Century British Sculpture*, Beaux Art, Bath

1986 *British Sculpture 1950-65*, New Art Centre, London
 Business Art Galleries, Royal Academy

1985 *The Forgotten Fifties*, Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield and on to Norwich, Coventry, Campden Arts Centre
 McEwen Gallery, London

1984 *RIBA Conference*, York University, York

1983 Christie's Contemporary Art, New York
British Art, New Directions, Puck Building, New York
 Sutton Manor Sculpture Park, Winchester
 International Critics Symposium, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield

1982 *Summer Exhibition from Browse and Darby*, Guilford House Gallery, Guilford, Surrey
Sculpture in the Park, Cheltenham Festival

1981 *British Sculpture in the 20th Century*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
Salisbury Festival Sculpture Exhibition, Wiltshire
Summer Exhibition, Bruton Gallery, Somerset
 Business Art Galleries, Royal Academy

1979 *The Royal Academy of Arts, London*, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh

1977 *Silver Jubilee Exhibition of Contemporary British Sculpture*, Battersea Park, London

1975 *Sculpture in Holland Park, 1975*, London
Sculptors as Draughtsmen, JPL Gallery, London

1973 *Six Artists*, Archer Gallery London

1972 *British Sculptors '72*, Royal Academy of Arts, London
British Sculptors, Redfern Gallery, London
 Bath Festival Exhibition of Contemporary Drawings
Two by Seven, Archer Gallery, London
Second Ellingham Mill Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture, Suffolk

1971 *British Sculpture*, Park Square Gallery, Leeds

1969 Artists of the Leicester Galleries 1910-1969, Morley Gallery, London

1968 *British Sculpture*, City Art Gallery, Bristol
 Coventry Cathedral Open Air Sculpture Exhibition

1967 Carnegie Cathedral Open Air Sculpture Exhibition, Dumfermline, Scotland

1966 *Sculpture in the Open Air*, Battersea Park, London
Chromatic Sculpture, Arts Council Gallery, Cambridge

1965 *British Sculpture in the Sixties*, Tate Gallery, London

1963 Seventh International Biennale, Tokyo
 Battersea Park International Open Air Sculpture Exhibition
English Sculpture, Hanover-Gimpel Gallery, Zurich

1962 *British Sculpture Today*, Ashgate Gallery, Surrey

1961 *Painting and Sculpture from Leeds*, Dortmund
British Sculpture '61', touring exhibition, Wales
Resolution 42, Bethnal Green Library, London
Modern British Sculpture, Beaux Arts, Bath
 Festival of the Arts, Norwich
 Royal Scottish Academy Summer Exhibition
Contemporary British Portraits, Wildenstein & Co. London 1

- 1960 *British Sculpture*, Bear Lane Gallery, Oxford
Three Humanist Sculptors (with Jack Greaves and Betty Rea), Zwemmer Gallery, London
 Leicester Galleries, London
Contemporary British Sculpture, Arts Council open-air touring show
Modern British Portraits, Arts Council touring show
Northern Artists, Arts Council touring show
 Harrogate Festival of Music and Arts
- 1960 *Sculpture in the Open Air*, Battersea Park, London
- 1959 Middelheim 5th Biennale, Antwerp
 2nd John Moores Exhibition, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool (Prizewinner)
Artists of Fame and of Promise, Leicester Galleries, London
- 1958 *Five Yorkshire Sculptors* (with Armitage, Hepworth, Moore and Thornton), Leeds City Art Gallery
The Religious Theme, Tate Gallery, London
 International Open Air Sculpture exhibition, Sonsbeek, Belgium London
Eight Young Contemporaries, Gimpel Fils, London
Artists of Fame and of Promise, Leicester Galleries, London
- 1957 1st John Moores Exhibition, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool (Prizewinner)
Six Young Artists, Roland, Browse and Delbanco, London
 Café Royal Centenary Exhibition, London
Contemporary British Sculpture, Arts Council open-air touring show
- 1956 *Young Sculptors*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London
Young Contemporaries, RBA Galleries, London
Eight Young Contemporaries, Gimpel Fils, London
Some Contemporary British Sculpture, Aldeburgh Festival
- 1955 *Young Contemporaries*, RBA Galleries, London
Eight Young Contemporaries, Gimpel Fils, London
Artists of Fame and of Promise, Leicester Galleries, London
- 1954 *Young Contemporaries*, RBA Galleries, London
Six Young Contemporaries, Gimpel Fils, London
- 1953 *Young Contemporaries*, RBA Galleries, London
Six Young Contemporaries, Gimpel Fils, London

From 1968 he has shown annually at the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
 Aberdeen Art Gallery, Scotland
 Albright-Knox Collection, Buffalo, USA
 Arts Council of Great Britain
 Cass Foundation, Sculpture at Goodwood
 Chantrey Bequest Collection
 City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery
 Contemporary Art Society, London
 Halifax Art Gallery
 Huddersfield Art Gallery; Leeds City Galleries
 National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
 Norfolk Contemporary Art Society
 Rijksmuseum Kroller-Muller, Netherlands
 Royal Academy of Arts
 Royal College of Art, London
 Salzburg State Museum, Austria
 Southport Art Gallery
 Stuyvesant Foundation, South Africa;
 Tate Gallery, London
 University of Liverpool

West Riding Education Committee, Yorkshire

COMMISSIONS

Harlow New Town *Sheep Shearer*
Harlow Market Square *Meat Porters*
Brussels World Fair 1958 *Three Boys*
London. Commonwealth Institute *Portrait of Gandhi*
London, Tulse Hill School, *Man and Child*
Hatfield New Town *Market Place Fountain*
Loughborough University *Man and Child*
Liverpool University, Engineering Block, *Relief - Pastoral*
London. Manufactures Hanover Bank, *Wall panels*
Cambridge. Newnham College, *Swimming*
Hemel Hempstead. Kodak House *Portrait of George Eastman*
Jersey Zoo, *The Patriarch. Jambo,*
Sculpture at Goodwood, *Meat Porters*
Sculpture at Goodwood, *La Sposa*

PUBLICATIONS & RECORDINGS

Social, Savage, Sensual: The Sculpture of Ralph Brown, Sansom & Company, 2009
A vision for twenty-first century British sculpture, Sculpture at Goodwood, 2002
Ralph Brown Sculpture, Epe books, 2000
Ralph Brown: Sculpture and Drawings by Denis Farr, Ruth Walton and Adam White,
The Henry Moore Centre for the Study of Sculpture and Leeds City Art Galleries, 1988
Ralph Brown has been recorded by the National Sound Archive:
<http://sounds.bl.uk/View.aspx?item=021M-Co466X0093XX-0100Vo.xml>

QUOTES

'So much of Brown's sculpture is his search for equivalents, in formal terms, for sensual experiences.'

Denis Farr, *Ralph Brown Sculpture and Drawings*

'I don't know whether it is true or not, but in England, north country people are looked upon as being very matter-of-fact, practical, hard-headed people. This may have something to do – I don't know; it's just a fanciful idea, probably – but this may have something to do with the fact that in England now there are some twenty or thirty young sculptors who've cropped up since the war; four or five of them are certainly Yorkshire. There's me, there's Barbara Hepworth, there's [Kenneth] Armitage, there's Ralph Brown and [Leslie] Thornton.

Henry Moore, Warren Forman, *5 British Sculptors*

Pangolin London are proud to represent the Estate of Ralph Brown