

Barbara Hepworth

Who Was Barbara Hepworth?

Barbara Hepworth was a famous British artist and sculptor. She made beautiful sculptures out of stone, wood, and metal. Her art is often smooth and curvy — and sometimes has big holes right in the middle!

Barbara Hepworth was one of the first women to become a world-famous sculptor — at a time when most artists were men!

Childhood

- Barbara was born on **January 10, 1903** in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England.
- She loved **drawing and music** as a child.
- She enjoyed being outdoors and loved looking at the shapes in nature.
- Her father was an engineer, and she often went with him on car rides to look at the countryside.

Education

- Barbara was very clever and went to **Wakefield Girls' High School**.
- She studied art at the **Leeds School of Art**.
- One of her classmates was **Henry Moore**, who also became a famous sculptor!
- She went on to study at the **Royal College of Art** in London.

Art

- Barbara's sculptures are inspired by **nature** – the sea, sky, and landscapes.
- She wanted people to **touch, walk around, and feel** her sculptures.
- Barbara wanted to show the inside and outside of the sculpture, which is why they often have holes through them
- Her work is displayed in parks and galleries all around the world.

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Her Amazing Sculptures

Here are some of her most famous works:



Pelagos (1946) – A smooth, spiral-shaped sculpture made of wood and string. It looks like waves or a shell.

Oval Sculpture" (No. 2) (1943)

From a series of white sculptures with big holes in the middle.



"Single Form" (1961–64) – A huge bronze sculpture that stands outside the United Nations building in New York!

"Two Forms" (1969) – Two smooth shapes that look like they're having a conversation.



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Barbara Hepworth's Sculpture Garden

- Barbara Hepworth lived and worked in **St Ives, Cornwall**.
- Her home and studio are now the **Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden**.
- You can walk through the garden and see her real sculptures in the open air, just as she wanted them to be seen!
- The garden is full of trees, flowers, and peaceful corners — it feels like nature and art are working together.
- You can also see **her workshop** with her tools, and even see where she carved and polished her artwork.