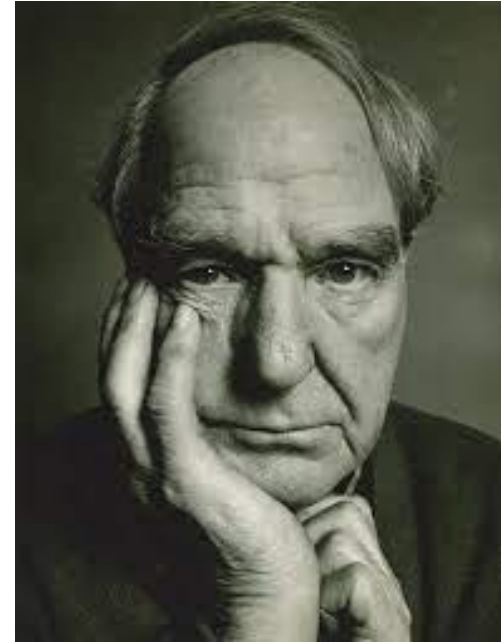
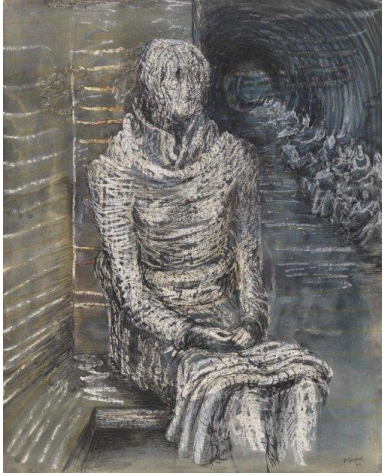




Henry Moore



Henry Moore was born in Castleford, Yorkshire, England in 1898. He was a teacher and was in the army before going to Leeds School of Art to learn to become a sculptor. He was inspired by nature. He sketched the hills near where he grew up and collected interesting stones, animal bones and tree roots on his regular walks in the countryside.

During World War II, he was commissioned by the War Artists Advisory Committee to make drawings of people in London using underground stations as bomb shelters. The scratchy dark drawings powerfully capture the feelings of anxiety that people must have felt.

Henry Moore is very famous for his sculptures, but he also made sketches in the London Underground during World War II, when the tube stations were used as bomb shelters. But how did he achieve the spooky effect of the figures rising out of the darkness? With cheap wax crayons and watercolour paint!

Henry Moore wrote this in a Letter to E.D. Averill, 11 December 1964:

'I hit upon this technique by accident, sometime before the war when doing a drawing to amuse a young niece of mine. I used some of the cheap wax crayons (which she had bought from Woolworth's) in combination with a wash of water-colour, and found, of course, that the water-colour did not 'take' on the wax, but only on the background.

I found also that if you use a light-coloured or even white wax crayon, then a dark depth of background can easily be produced by painting with dark water-colour over the whole sheet of paper'.

Example artist page...

