



Henry Moore's home in Hertfordshire is called Hoglands. It is an old farmhouse dating back to around the year 1600. Since then the remains of farm animals have accumulated in the grounds surrounding the house where he has lived for the last thirty years.

Fossils and bones found in ploughing have long been part of the sculptor's large inventory of natural forms that serve to trigger his plastic imagination. To the varied and fascinating collection in Moore's maquette studio – his inner sanctum – an elephant's skull was recently added, providing the subject for this exciting series of engravings.

'I have always been interested in natural forms: tree branches, pebbles, shells, bones, anything like that. Whenever I find something of this kind I bring it into my little studio. You can see that I have many sizes and varieties of natural forms here, but I have never had the luck of being able to study something at close quarters quite as imposing as this elephant's skull. A few months ago it was given to me by Julian and Juliette Husley – dear friends of mine for years and years.'

Some of Moore's best known monumental works, such as the 'Atom Piece' suggest skull forms. It therefore seemed logical for Julian Husley to offer his friend the use of an elephant's skull. 'One finds in it all sorts of qualities that bones generally seem to have. Some parts of its structure are

Text for Elephant Skull Album (first section) - prototype Animals in the Zoo portfolio

Henry Moore

Not on display

Title/Description: Text for Elephant Skull Album (first section) - prototype Animals in the Zoo portfolio

Artist/Maker: Henry Moore

Born: 1981 - 1982

Object Type: Graphics portfolio

Materials: Ink, Paper

Measurements: (Solander box: 67 x 51.7 x 4.4)

Accession Number: 41375M

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: Britain, England, Europe

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In 1983 Henry Moore published *Animals in the Zoo*, a portfolio of ten etchings and an additional two in the deluxe edition. The portfolio in the Sainsbury Centre Collection is a prototype. The twelve etchings were sent to Baron Zuckerman OM, along with the text for Moore's *Elephant Skull* album (1970), probably so Zuckerman could write his introduction for the *Animals in the Zoo* portfolio.

In his introduction, Zuckerman wrote, 'The animals which he has depicted are his own, seized with infinite sensitivity by his eye, in the same way that he had already seized what appears in that remarkable portfolio of etchings of the elephant skull, a vision that had never been given to any anatomist'. Moore had created his *Elephant Skull* album based on a skull given to him by Juliette Huxley, wife of the biologist Sir Julian Huxley after he had admired it in their garden. The text was written by Henry J Seldis and interspersed with Moore's etchings of details of the skull, looking like craggy rocks. Seldis writes that the portfolio offers 'a better understanding of this great artist'.

The lifelong friendship of Solly Zuckerman and Moore began when they met in the late 1920s in the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London, where Zuckerman was Resident Anatomist. Zuckerman later became Chief Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence in 1960-5 and then Chief Scientific Advisor to the British government until 1969. He was involved in the founding of the University of

East Anglia and became Professor at Large in 1969. His close relationship to the University meant that he gave his archive, along with this portfolio.

Tania Moore, September 2020

Further reading

David Mitchinson, Henry Moore: Prints and Portfolios (Geneva: Patrick Cramer, 2010), pp.322-29.

Further Reading

Tania Moore, Henry Moore: Friendships and Legacies (Norwich: Sainsbury Centre, 2020)

Provenance

Given to Lord Zuckerman by Henry Moore in 1982.

Bequeathed to the Sainsbury Centre in 1993, with his archive to the University of East Anglia Archives.
