

# Mass & Void

Art & Design

The hole as a sculptural element, and what it does to a solid form.

Sculpture is made of solid mass and the space that mass displaces. Opening the mass lets space pass through the work, so the surroundings become part of it.

## PIERCED FORM

Hepworth, 1931

## TEST

walk right around it

- Hepworth pierced the form from 1931 onwards.
- Moore's reclining figures open the body into space.
- A void changes with the viewer; the mass does not.
- Light through an opening animates the interior.
- Silhouette and void together carry the reading.
- Negative space in sculpture is a shape, not a gap.

## LOOK FOR IT

Photograph the piece against a bright ground: the voids will read as the strongest shapes in it.

A form with no void is read only from its surface. Opening it makes the surrounding space do half of the work.