

VITALISM III

2017



We grew up in the 1950's and 60's when British post-war sculpture was the epitome of Modern Art.

Linear, craggy forms with earthy textures and patinas defined post-war culture with a freedom that enabled and influenced our expectations of art as well as all subsequent sculptural movements. This new freedom is evident in the exploration of fresh techniques and materials and the instinctive 'drawing in space' made possible by the use of welded metal. Drawing was the essential preoccupation of almost all post-war artists, not only in the sense of Paul Klee's famous words 'taking a line for a walk' but as a means of recreating personal worlds through the use of line. It could then so easily be reinterpreted in three dimensions: the fused and repeated lines of John Hoskin's work, the implied lines modelled in clay by F.E. McWilliam and Kenneth Armitage, Lynn Chadwick's geometric constructions or Reg Butler's organic, curved, linear progressions. All these artists shared a determination to celebrate the physical process of 'making' by leaving it visible on the finished surface. It is this proximity to their creative journey that gives so much vitality to the sculptures of this time.

Looking back now that more than 60 years have passed, it is difficult to imagine quite how avant-garde these sculptors and their work were. In their time, British journalists and commentators were not immediately enthused, unlike their continental colleagues who had embraced the New British Sculpture of the Venice Biennale of 1952. One notable exception was Herbert Read, who championed these sculptors tirelessly and provided a poetic and literary interpretation of their work that continues to be seen as a primary and contemporary context.

We are fortunate in being able to include in our exhibition some exceptional sculptures, as well as drawings and prints. Their freshness and vitality of imagery are as dynamic on paper as they are in the sculptural work, all illustrating the 'visual thinking' and vital energy inherent in the work of this period.

Gallery Pangolin









Waking Up Figure 1962 Bronze Edition 2/5 22cm high





Study For Witch Of Agnesi 1959 Bronze Edition 2/3 27cm high







Girl on Back 2 1956 Bronze Edition 6/8 21cm high







Girl 1951 Bronze Edition 5/8 24cm high





Figure from Musee Imaginaire 1961 Bronze Edition 9/9 17cm high



Figure from Musee Imaginaire 1961 Bronze Edition 9/9 21.5cm high

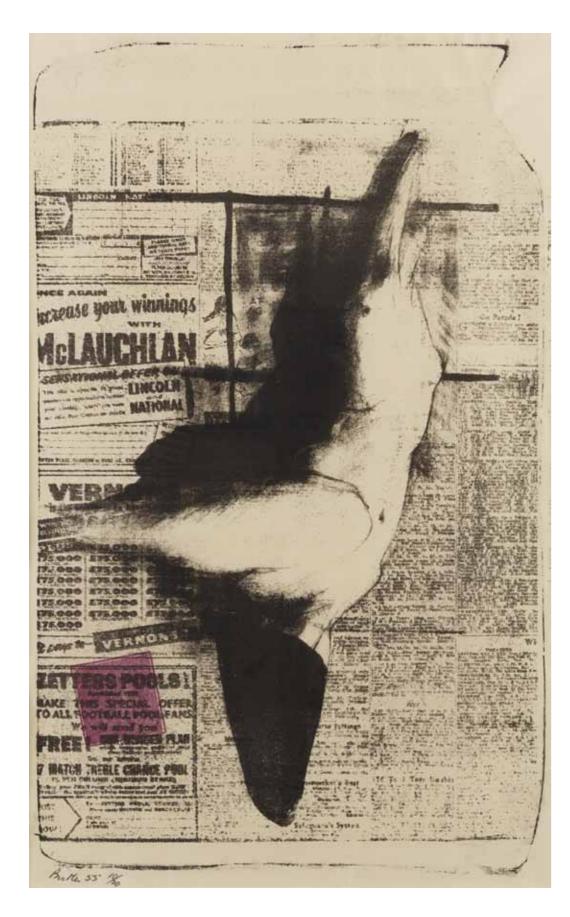
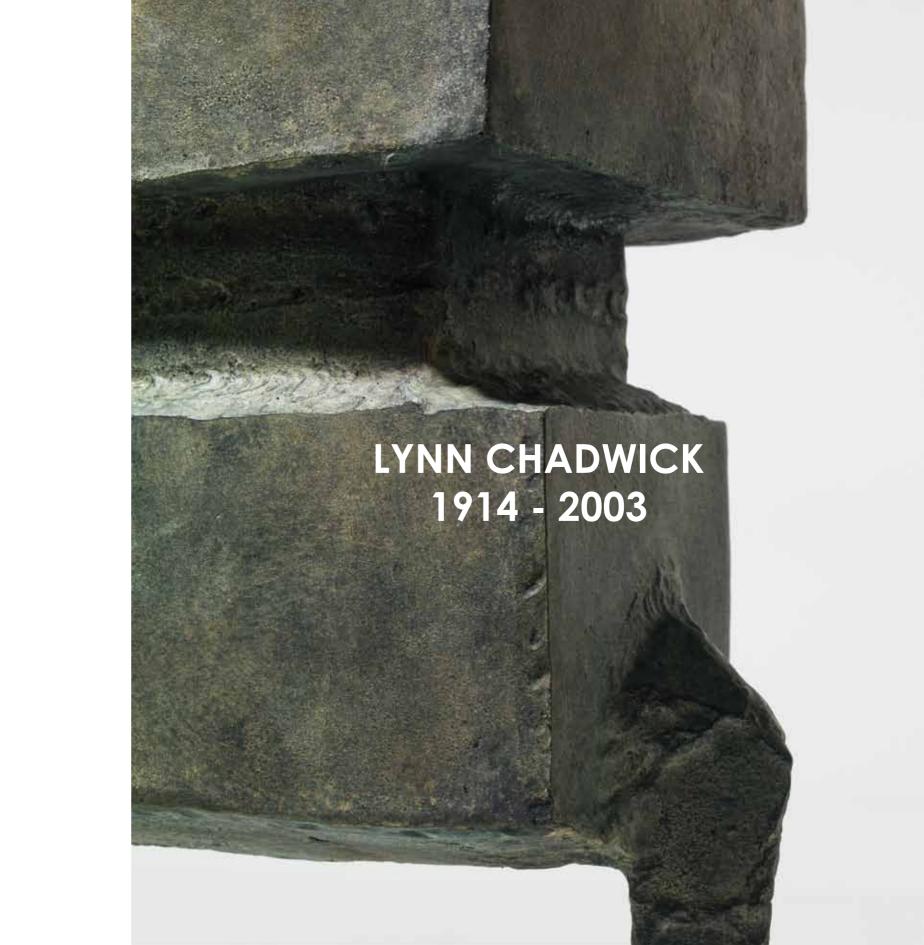
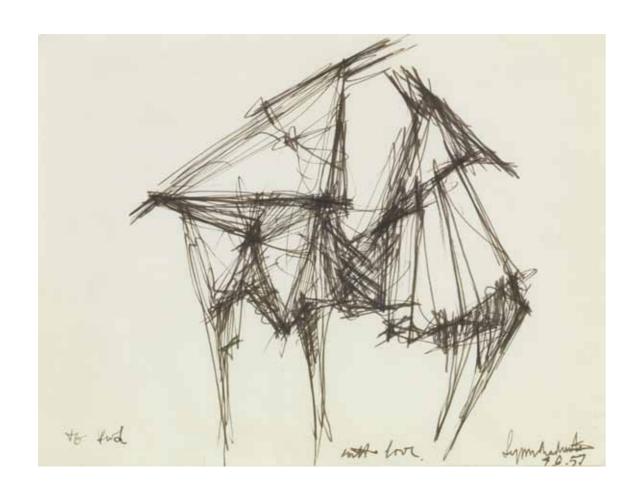


Figure with English Newspaper 1955 Lithograph Edition 10/20 47.5 x 30cm

Ophelia L 1955-6 Bronze Edition 8/8 51cm high

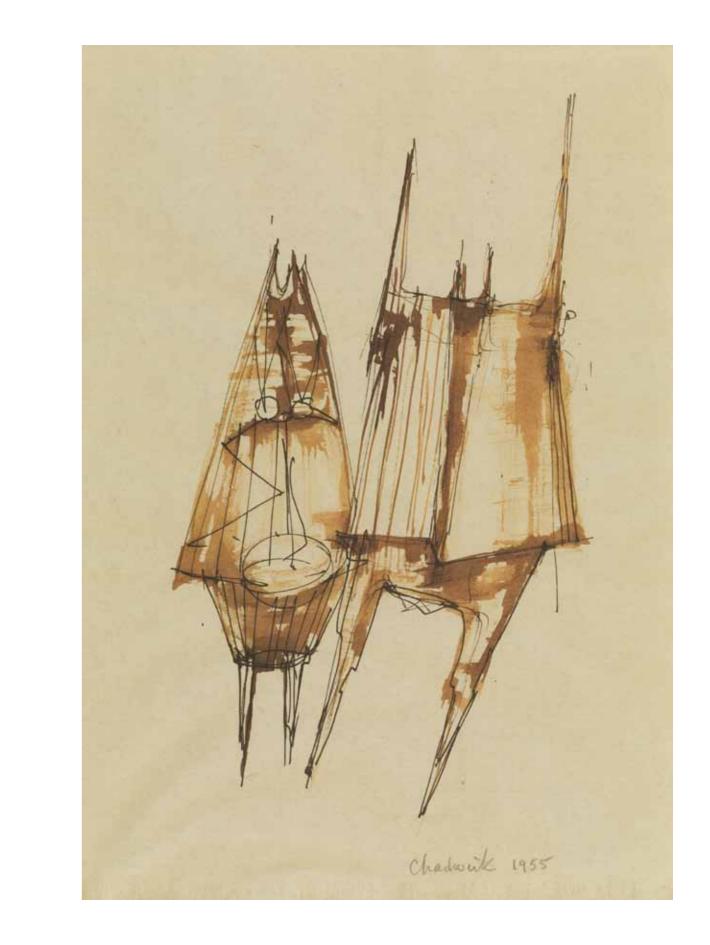






Dance 1957 Ink Unique 45 x 53cm Dance III 1955 Bronze Edition 3/9 53cm high







Teddy Boy and Girl 1979 Bronze EA1 from an Edition of 6 200cm high





Untitled 1968 (detail) Ink & Monoprint Unique 61.5 x 45cm

Twister II 1962 Bronze Edition 4/4 109cm high







Head of Fallen Bird 1959 Bronze Unnumbered cast from an Edition of 6 28cm high



Head of Bird 1956 Pencil & Watercolour Unique 27.5 x 29cm



Head of Bird (Bird) 1956 Pencil & Watercolour Unique 30 x 25cm

Wounded Bird 1956 Bronze Edition 1/6 20cm high

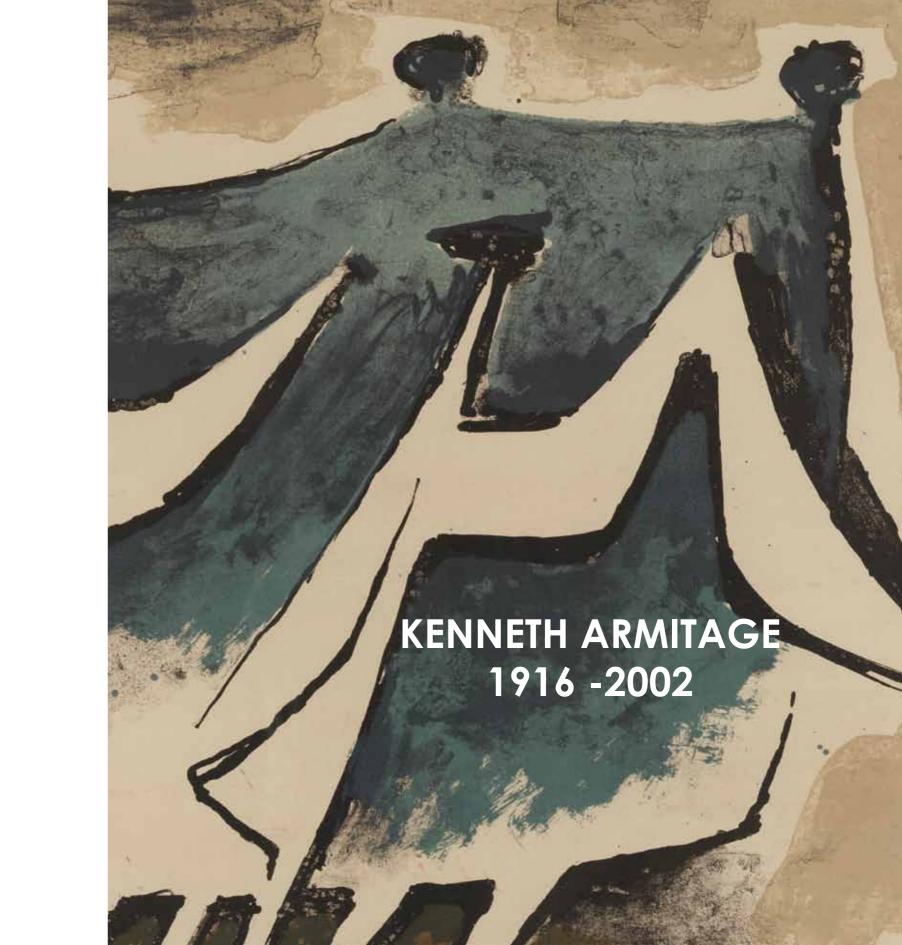






Shot Bird 1964 Bronze Edition 2/6 39cm high







Mother and Child 1953 Lithograph Edition 25/50 44.5 x 29.5cm Standing Figure 1955
Bronze
Edition size unknown
72cm high
Courtesy The Ingram Collection
of Modern British Art







Family Going for a Walk 1954 Lithograph Edition 11/24 36.5 x 45.5cm People in the Wind 1951 Bronze Edition 2/6 65cm high





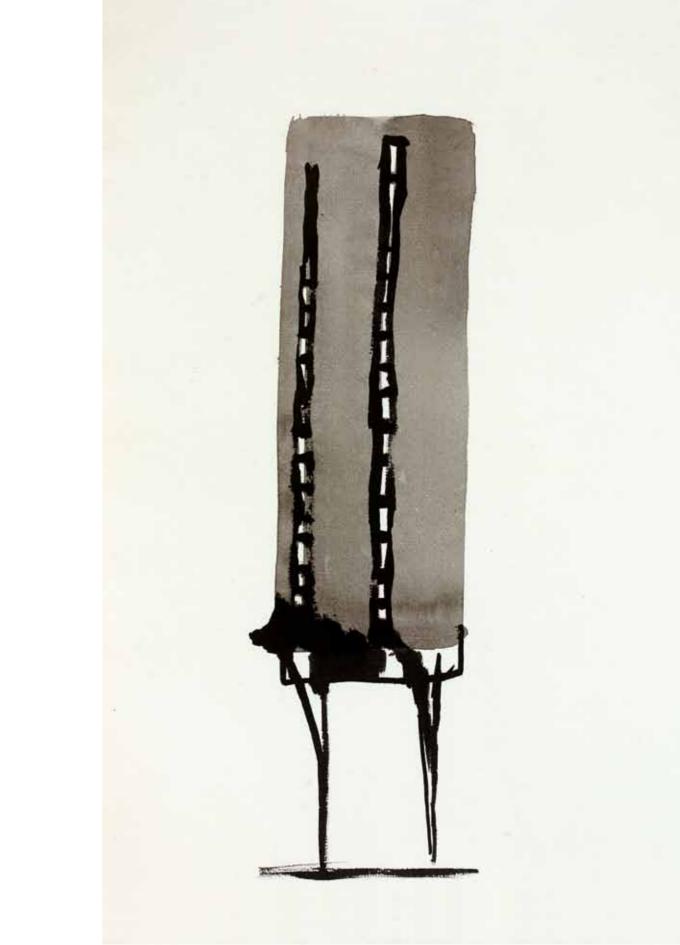




Figure (date unknown) Welded Steel Unique 17cm high



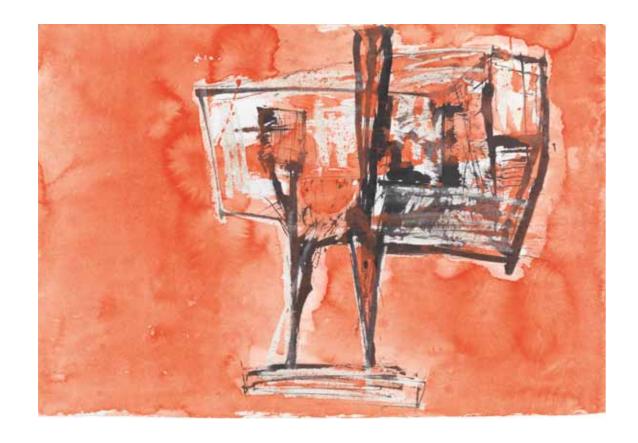
Figure 1957 Welded Steel Unique 19cm high





Hammer Head (date unknown) Welded Steel Unique 38.5cm high







Untitled I 1963 Welded Steel Unique 58cm high









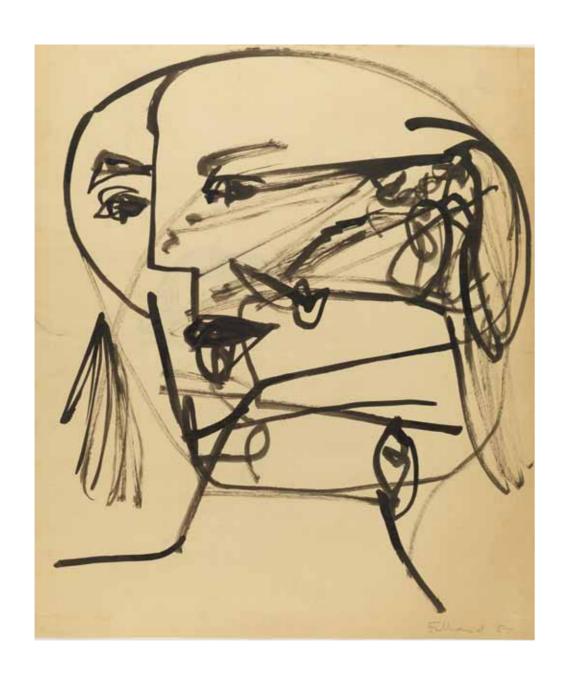
Reclining Woman 1961 Pencil Unique 56 x 38cm

Stick Figure 1959 Bronze Unnumbered cast from an Edition of 2 68.5cm high

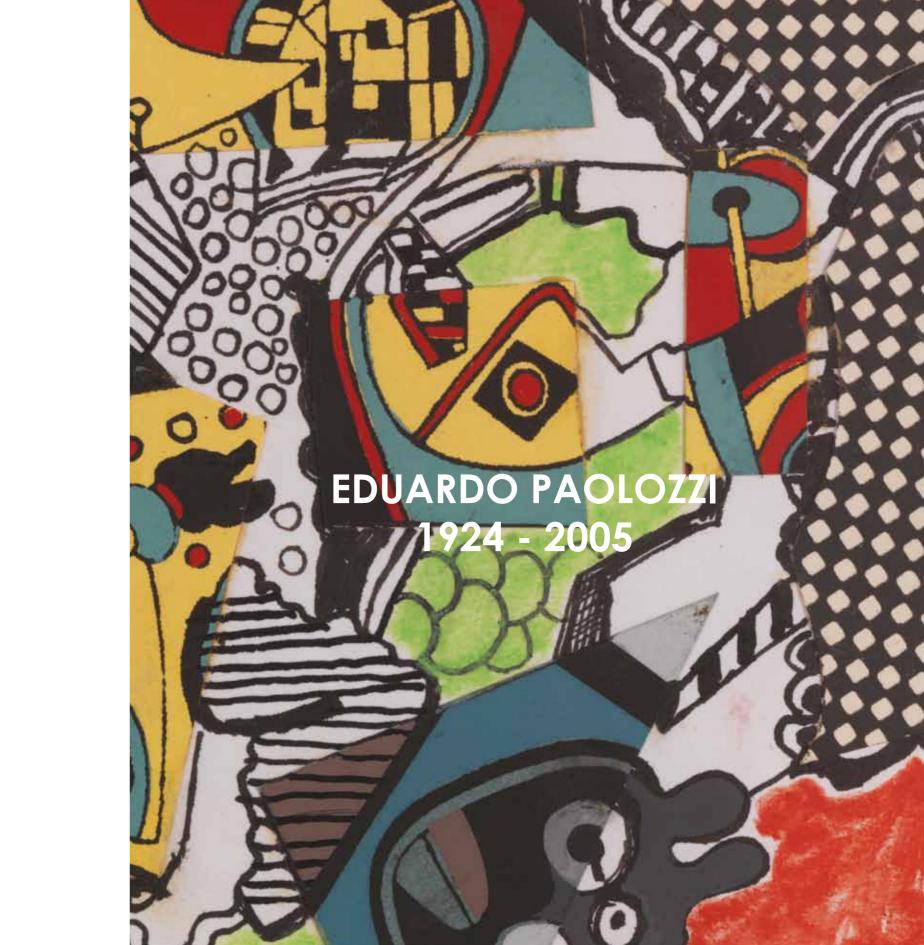


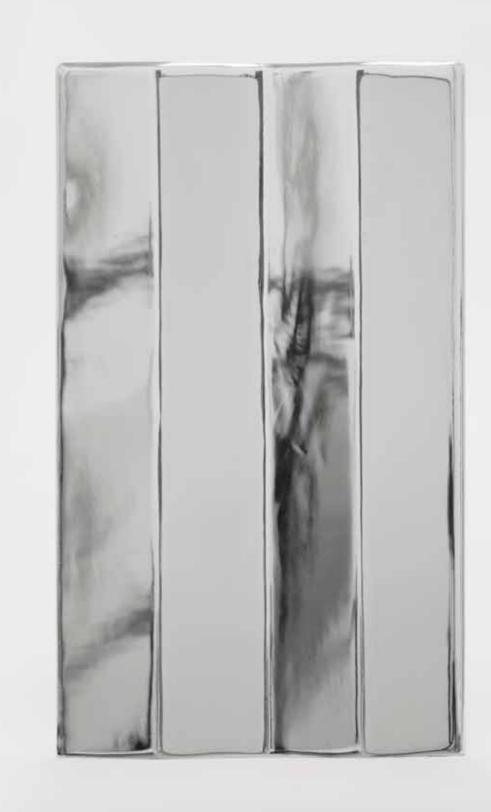
Head 1961 Bronze One Known Cast 47.5cm high





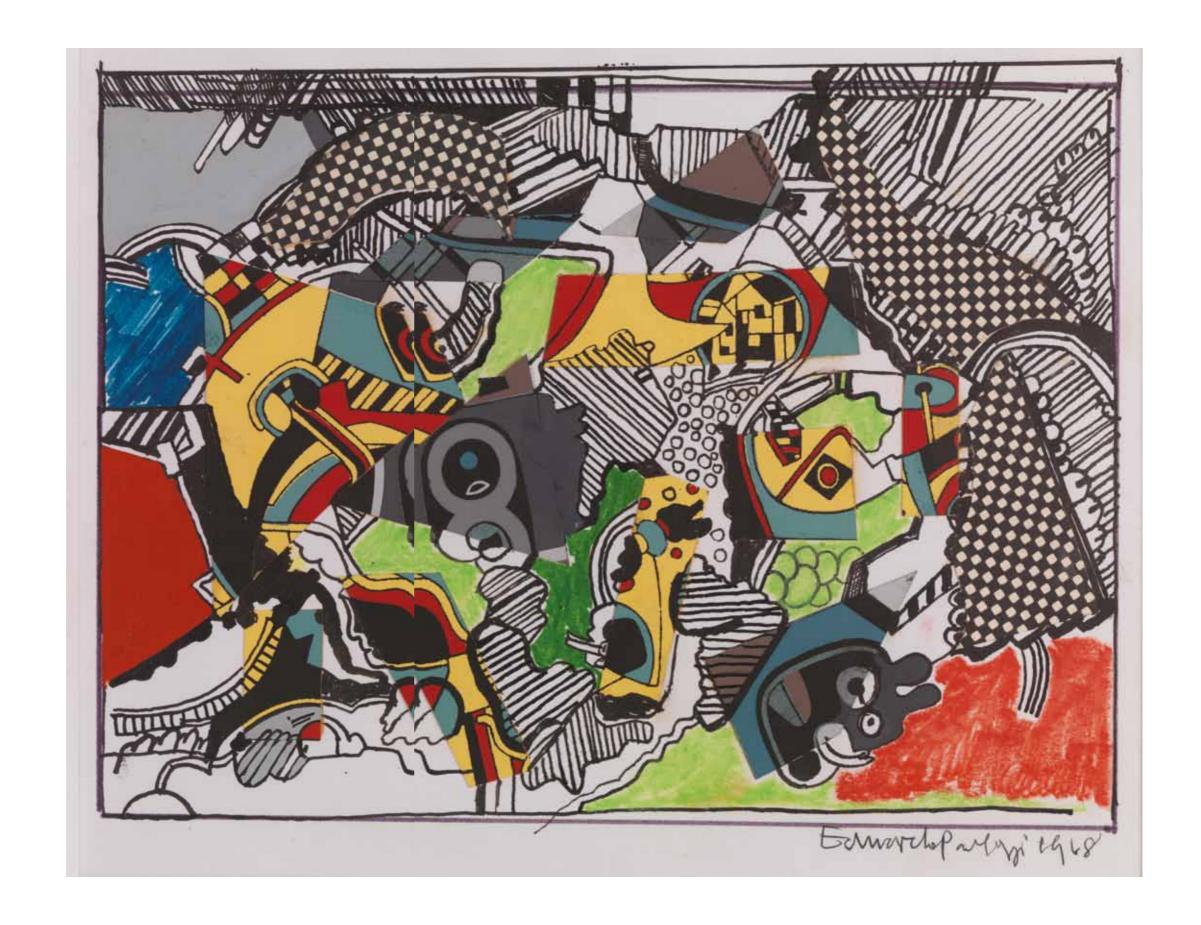


















Symbol for Man XV 1954 Brazed Steel Unique 23cm high

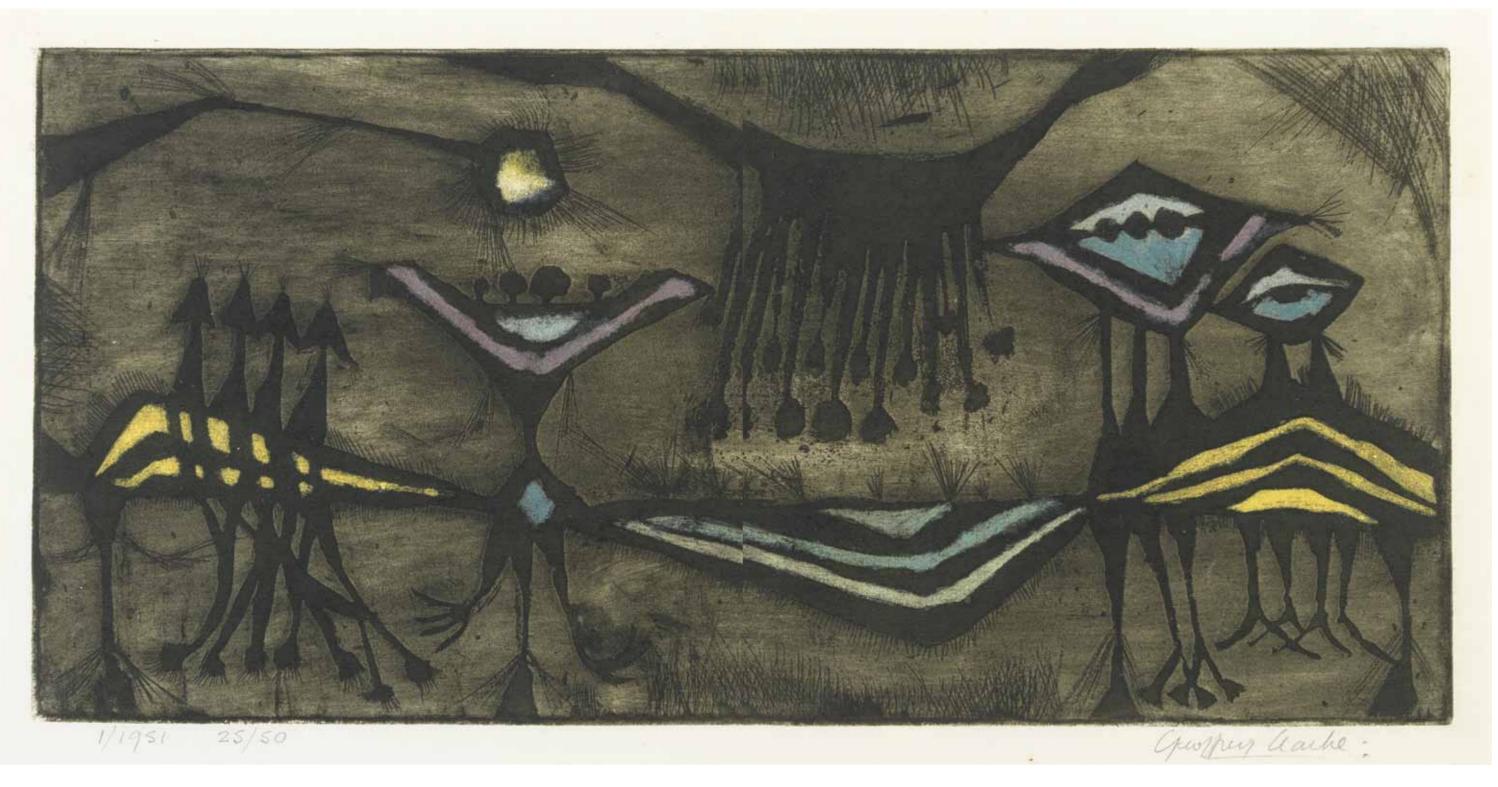




Man February 1950 Sugar-lift Aquatint Edition 7/25 48.5 x 32cm

Man 1954 Iron Unique 28.5cm high

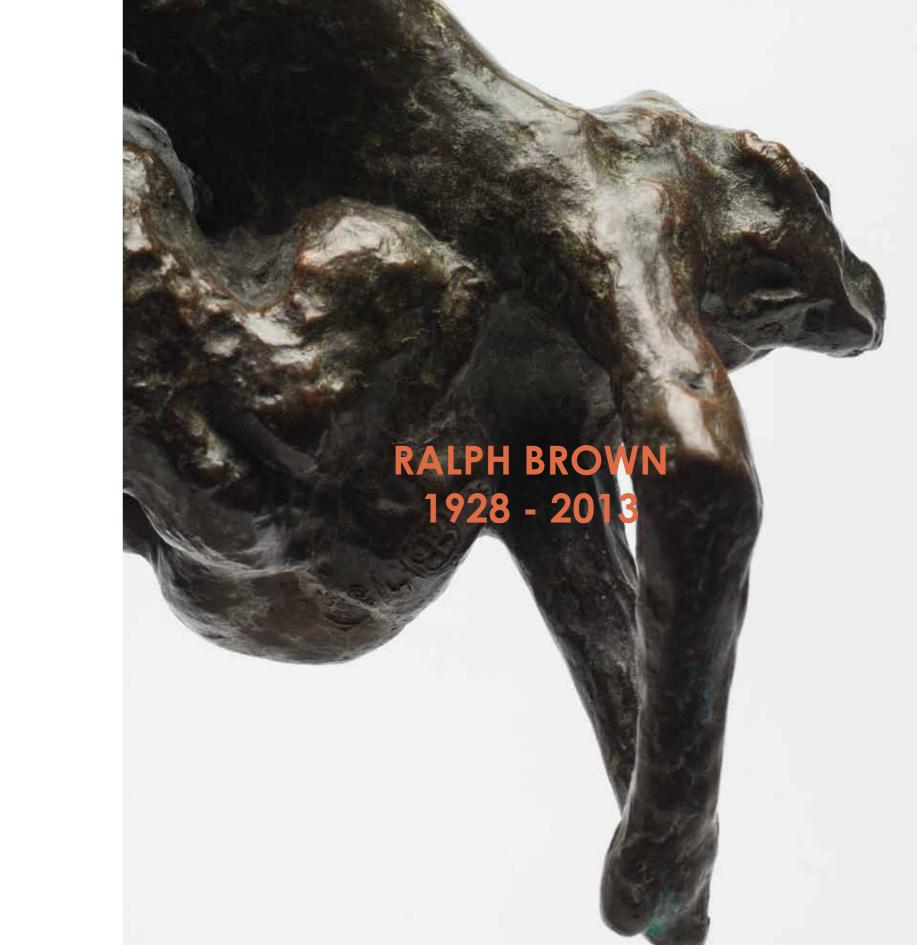




Birth of a Flower 1951 Sugar-lift Aquatint Edition 25/50 24 x 47.5 cm



Symbol for Man XIV 1954 Brazed Steel on Aluminium Unique 12cm high





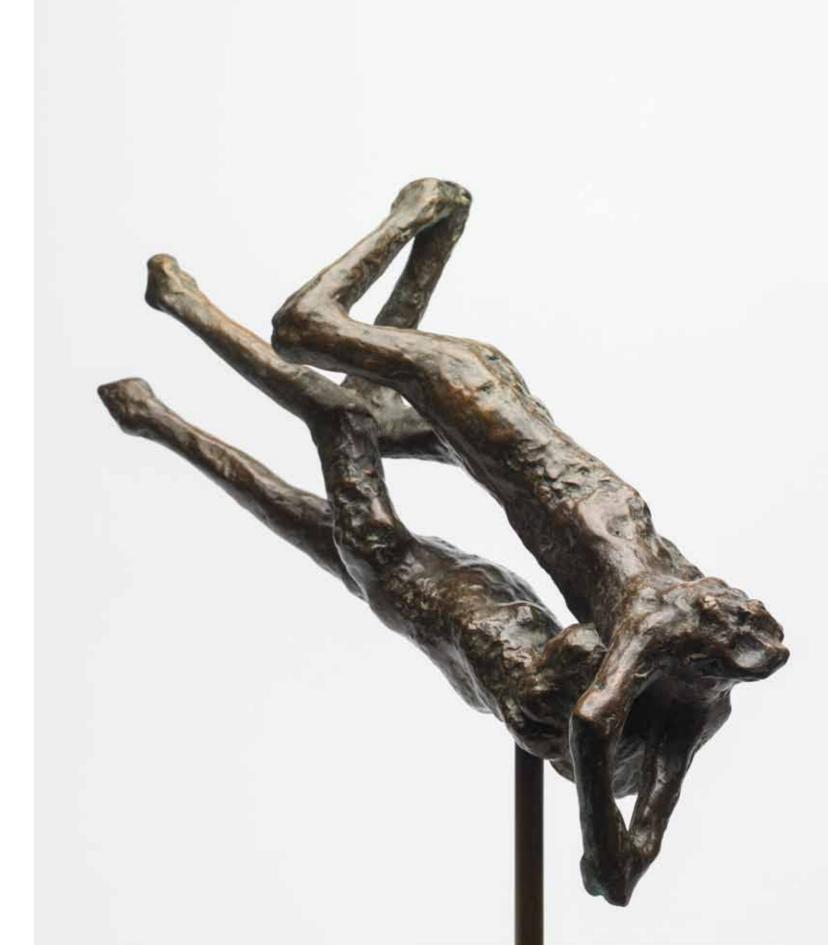


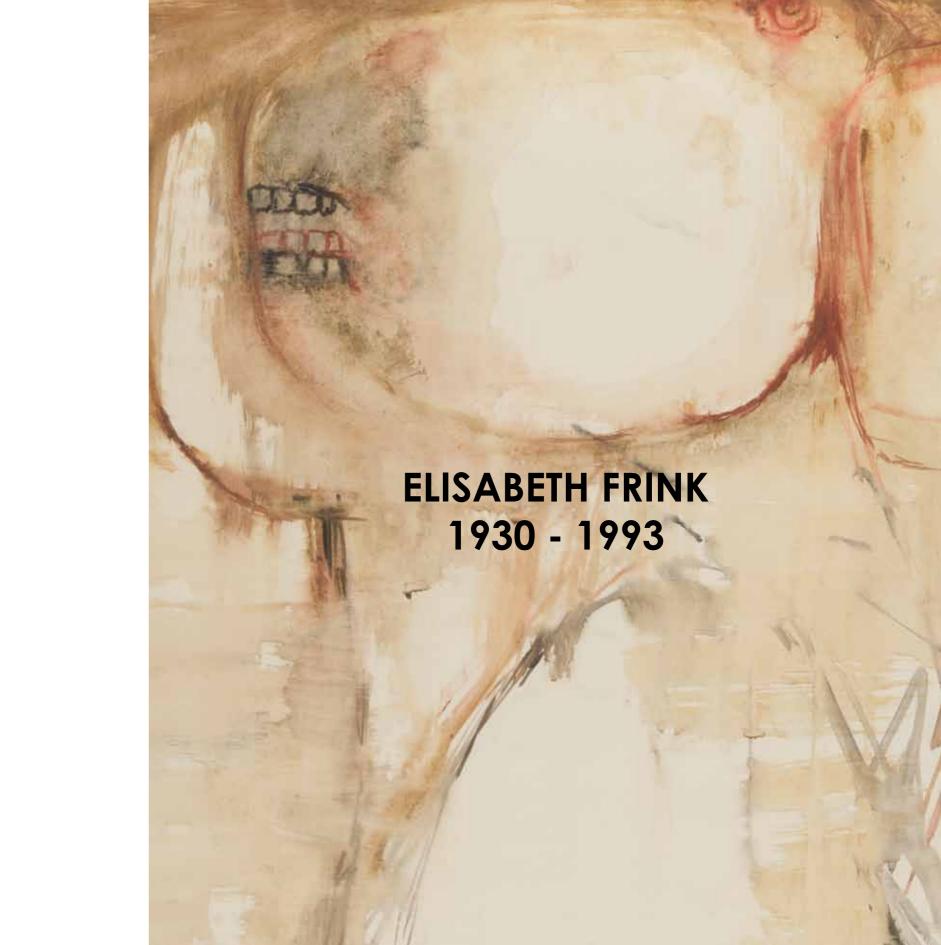
Clochard 1955-56 Bronze Edition 1/6 168cm long × 30cm high





Divers 1959-60 Bronze Edition 4/8 48cm high



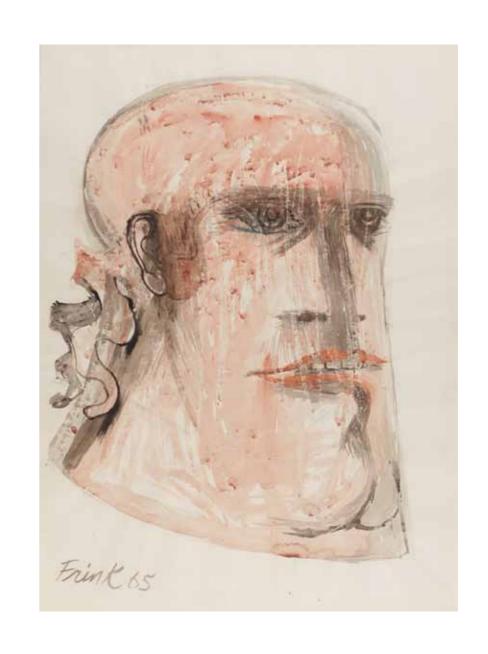






Small Soldier Head 1964 Bronze A/C from an Edition of 7 21cm high Spaceman 1960 Pencil Unique 76 X 51cm

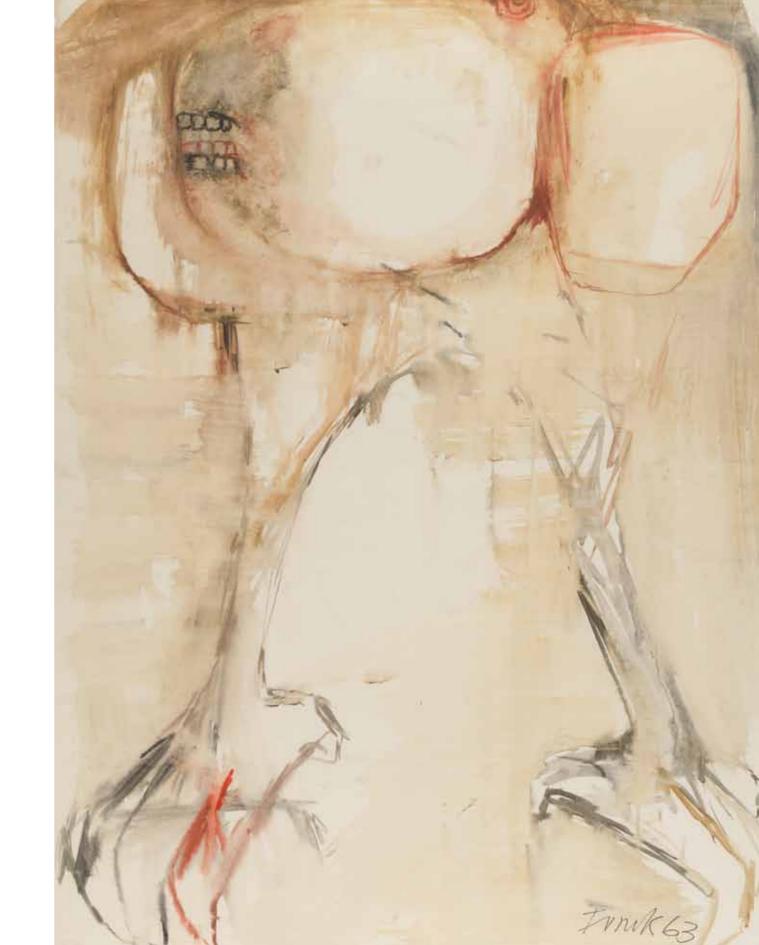






Bird 1960 Charcoal Unique 75.5 x 49.5cm

Untitled 1963 Watercolour Unique 78.5 x 59cm





Catalogue Design: Gallery Pangolin Photography: Steve Russell Studios Printing: Healeys Print Group

