



A Natural Beauty

Throughout her career, Barbara Hepworth stressed the influence of landscape on her art. From an early age, she often traveled in the countryside of Yorkshire, England, with her father, a county civil engineer and surveyor.



Merryn, 1962

Take a closer look

Barbara Hepworth (1903–1975) created *Merryn* by carving directly into alabaster, seeking to reveal and celebrate this stone’s distinctive qualities. Notice the subtle shifts in opacity and variegation—from milky white to warm golden tones.

Something to talk about

Imagine that this sculpture was made out of a different material like shiny silver, textured tires, or pink plastic. Would you like it more or less than Hepworth’s alabaster version? Why?

Who knew?

The title of the sculpture references St Merryn, a town on the northern coast of Cornwall, England. St Merryn is about 80 miles from St Ives, the location of Hepworth’s studio.

Barbara Hepworth, *Merryn*, 1962; Alabaster; 13 x 11½ x 8¼ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wallace and Wilhelmina Holladay; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

