

Sculptural Values: Carving, Modelling, Making (Leeds, 30 Sept 26)

The Studio, Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, Sep 30, 2026

Registration deadline: Sep 30, 2026

Kirstie Gregory, Henry Moore Institute

Early Career Research Symposium - Sculptural Values: Carving, Modelling, Making.
13:30–18:00.

How do we address questions of matter, process, facture, climate, fluidity and scale in premodern sculpture today? What languages of art history and criticism might enable us to hold such qualities within description and to do so with verve? What deeper fantasies lie within materials? What inner ferments does the artwork externalise?

This event for early career researchers is part of a Research Season at Henry Moore Institute that centres on the idiosyncratic sculptural imagination of the English critic Adrian Stokes (1902–72).

A key voice in mid twentieth-century sculptural and architectural criticism, Stokes uniquely combined a disparate set of compelling concerns: modernist values of direct carving, speculative psychoanalytic thought, a sensitivity to the vitality of natural materials, and a deep understanding of pre-modern sculpture in its continual reanimation. The workshop will engage, both directly and indirectly, with some of Stokes' key terms, but no prior familiarity with his writings is necessary.

Bringing together scholars working on premodern sculpture, we aim to re-assess Stokes' primary distinction between 'carving' and 'modelling' as part of a larger discussion of sculptural values.

Programme

Welcome and opportunity to see our exhibitions

13:30

Meet other attendees and take in our exhibitions Sagarika Sundaram: Reservoir and Ebb & Flow: Bookworks by Yoko Terauchi from the Research Library

Session One

14:15

Chaired by Dr Ruth Ezra, University of St. Andrews

'From Tree to Sacred Image: The Materiality of Francesco di Valdambrino's Devotion'

Beatrice Bimbi, University of Pisa

'From Touch to Imagination: Modelling, Handling and Studying Small Renaissance Bronzes'

Anna Carrarini, Courtauld Institute of Art/V&A

'Carving Ivory: Two Relief Sculptures by Franz Stainhart'
Francesco Alessandrini Lupia, University of St Andrews

Break
15:45

Session Two
16:00
Chaired by Dr Jeremy Melius, University of York

'The Mould as Carving: Clay, Contact and Index'
Olivia Fero, University of Pécs

'Release and Impression: Carving, Casting and the Gesture of Making'
Wenyi Pan, University of Edinburgh

'Stone as Current: Weaver's Logic, Water and the Tempo of Premodern Relief'
Helene Liene Dreifelds, University of Toronto

Drinks reception
17:30
Served in The Studio on the second floor

Finish
19:00

More Information:
<https://henry-moore.org/discover-and-research/sculpture-research-programme/calls-for-papers/sculptural-values-carving-modelling-making/>

Reference:

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