

OSBORNE SAMUEL

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART

HENRY MOORE (1898-1986)



Reclining Warrior, 1953

Bronze

8.5 x 19.7 x 9.5 cms

(3.34 x 7.74 in)

Edition of 9

Provenance:

Private Collection, USA

Literature

Alan Bowness, ed., *Henry Moore Complete Sculpture, 1949-1954*, vol. 2, London, 1986, no. 358b, p. 53

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Moore was internationally famous for sculptures of female figures when, in the mid- 1950s, he produced a number of sculptures of suffering and vulnerable males. For these he looked to classical precedents, photographs and such other sources as the plaster casts of the victims of Pompeii. The 1950s was an important period in British art, with sculptors such as Armitage, Chadwick, Frink and Moore creating enigmatic and powerful figures that spoke to the Cold War concerns of the time. The writer and critic Herbert Read famously described these works as, The Geometry of Fear.

Moore did 8 studies of the warrior, rare and unusual single male forms, and they are considered to be amongst the most expressionist of all his works. Form is important but the strength of the sculpture lies more in the posture of the subjects, falling, and fallen. David Mitchinson writes, none of them are idealized, let alone heroic. Moore's exploration of the subject reminds us that though he is associated with benign sculpture that speaks often of the comfort of human contact, he did also address situations of pain and even despair.