

Unseen Rodins lead way as sculpture gets the kiss of life

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The largest group of Rodin bronzes exhibited in the UK since the Royal Academy's show in 2007 will be on display from May 1 at Bowman Sculpture in Duke Street, St James's. *Rodin: In Private Hands* combines sculptures currently for sale with others sold by the gallery since it was opened by Robert Bowman in 1992. Many have never been on public view before.

Sculptures by Auguste Rodin (1840–1917) such as *The Kiss* and *The Thinker* are among the best-known Modern Art images in the world. *Rodin: In Private Hands* will include examples of these models, alongside other seminal pieces including *The Eternal Spring*, Rodin's original maquette for his *Monument to the Burghers of Calais*, *Iris Study with Head*, *Man with a Broken Nose*, and *Eternal Idol* (pictured right).

When Bowman joined Sotheby's in the 1970s, 19th-century sculptures were sold in routine furniture sales, if at all.

Thanks to him, and fashion, no more. This is the latest show in a present-day renaissance of the art form that for centuries was more highly regarded even than religious and history painting.

During much of the 20th century, with the exception of public galleries and commissions, sculpture was less esteemed, and by the last decades even in public art traditional sculpture's place was often usurped by installations. As late as 2000 it would have been worthwhile — and prof-

itable — to take the Arts Council's mid-century exhibition catalogues as a buying guide. However, sculpture is returning as a collecting field.

Sculpture in the Home at Pangolin in Kings Place, London, from April 9 to May 17, celebrates the innovative series of Arts Council of England touring exhibitions of the same name, which introduced a postwar audience to the concept of displaying sculpture within a domestic setting.

In four successive shows between 1946 and 1959, the laudable aim was to widen public access to and ownership of sculpture as well as to reform notions of the domestic interior through the integration of art and design.

Revisiting the original concept and aims of these pioneering shows, the gallery space at Pangolin will be transformed into a series of domestic

settings, incorporating period furnishings and sculpture in a celebration of British art and design. There are works by a host of prominent postwar sculptors including many of the artists featured in the original Arts Council exhibitions. Some, such as Reg Butler, Lynn Chadwick, Geoffrey Clarke and Bernard Meadows, are still well-regarded, others are overlooked by fashion.

The gallery's director, Polly Bielecka, says: "Pangolin is delighted to have formed partnerships with Race Furniture, Sanderson and Carter Wells Interior Design to stage this exhibition.

Sculpture in the Home reconfirms the accessible nature of sculpture as an artistic medium, and its compatibility with a domestic setting. As with the Arts Council exhibitions, it will be an opportunity to view sculpture in a different way and to encourage a contemporary audience to engage with Modern British sculpture outside the gallery or museum setting."

