Henry Moore
Mother & Child
“the subject Mother and Child is eternal and unending, with so many sculptural possibilities in it - a small form in relation to a big form, the big form protecting the small one, and so on.” Henry Moore

This series of intimate “Mother and Child” etchings explores the theme which Henry Moore embraced throughout his working life. It was to be his last body of work and his enduring production of pieces with this motif, illustrating the most basic human bond, he himself admitted to being an “obsession”.

Predominantly black and white, with some prints incorporating aquatint, the majority of these etchings are figurative. However, there are some examples (in particular XIV and XVII) of the semi-abstract style associated with his most famous sculptures. These draw on pre-Columbian art which the artist was heavily influenced by. This primitive look is fitting for such a primordial and timeless motif.

Although the mother’s face is expressionless throughout, the intimacy is still apparent as we, like the mother, watch her infant grow from a tiny helpless being to a mischievous child. This development is also shown in the physical proximity and relative largeness of the mother, showing her as nurturer, protector and latterly as an object that the child can play upon.

These poses range from the tender embraces shown in XXII, XXVII and XXX to the more playful demonstrations in X, XII, XV.

Moore also brings in other themes which feature heavily in previous works. “Reclining figure”, another favourite theme is included (exemplified in VII), strongly corresponding to the forms of his best known sculptures. An equally striking leitmotif can be seen in IV, XVIII and XX where the mother’s stately seated position evokes his “King and Queen” bronze sculpture designed in the w1950s.

The recognisability of the bold poses demands little in the way of interpretation by the viewer, yet the difference in styles and detail is where the viewer is forced to significantly vary his reactions.

Sentimentality is banished from most of the images and some of the distorted proportions can elicit discomfort when trying to warm to the figures. However, the timelessness and benignity of the subject creates a bond between us and all the images.
Plate I, Mother & Child (C. 671).

Etching and aquatint printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Spence Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham. Plate: 31.4 x 24.8cm, Sheet: 62 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92905
Plate II, Mother & Child (C. 672).

Etching and aquatint printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London, published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 16.2 x 22.5cm, Sheet: 44 x 52cm.

ref: 92906
Plate III, Mother & Child (C. 673).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. published by Raymond Speker Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 22.5 x 17.8cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92907
Plate IV, Mother & Child (C. 674).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London, published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 32.1 x 24.8cm, Sheet: 62 x 52cm.

ref: 92908
Plate V. Mother & Child (C. 675).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer's blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London, published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 28 x 21.3cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref:92909
Plate VI, Mother & Child (C. 676).

Etching and aquatint printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer's blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 23.8 x 18.8cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref:92910
Plate VII, Mother & Child (C. 677).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Spence Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 25.1 x 29.8cm, Sheet: 44 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92911
Plate VIII, Mother & Child (C. 678).

Etching and aquatint printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Sperrer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 35.6 x 25.1cm, Sheet: 62 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92912
Plate IX, Mother & Child (C. 679).

Etching, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Spicer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 21.6 x 20.6cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92913
Plate X, Mother & Child (C. 680).

Etching and aquatint, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Speck Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 23.2 x 38.5cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 62cm.

ref: 92914
Plate XI, Mother & Child (C. 681).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Speer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 34.6 x 26.4cm, Sheet: 62 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92915
Plate XII, Mother & Child (C. 682).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 21.3 x 27.3cm, Sheet: 44 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92916
Plate XIII, Mother & Child (C. 683).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 32.7 x 25.7cm, Sheet: 62 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92917
Plate XIV, Mother & Child (C. 684).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 23.8 x 18.8cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92919
Plate XV, Mother & Child (C. 685).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossley, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 21 x 29.5cm, Sheet: 44 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92920
Plate XVI, Mother & Child (C. 686).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London, published by Raymond Sporer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 34.6 x 36.5cm, Sheet: 62 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92921
Plate XVII, Mother & Child (C. 687).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 21 x 20.3cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92922
Plate XVIII, Mother & Child (C. 688).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specker Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 22.2 x 16.5cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92923
Plate XIX, Mother & Child (C. 689).

Etching, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 29.8 x 41.9cm. Sheet: 52.1 x 62cm.

ref: 92924
Plate XX, Mother & Child (C. 690).

Etching and aquatint printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Spicer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 24.1 x 18.1cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92925
Plate XXI, Mother & Child (C. 691).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Spcer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 34.6 x 24.8cm, Sheet: 62 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92926
Plate XXII, Mother & Child (C. 692).

Etching, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London, published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 22.9 x 18.1cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92927
Plate XXIII, Mother & Child (C. 693).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Spences Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 26 x 14.3cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92928
Plate XXIV, Mother & Child (C. 694).

Etching and aquatint and drypoint, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 21 x 29.5cm, Sheet: 44 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92929
Plate XXV, Mother & Child (C. 695).

Etching and aquatint and roulette and drypoint printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Speler Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 30.5 x 23.2cm, Sheet: 62 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92930
Plate XXVI, Mother & Child (C. 696).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Spcer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 22.9 x 16.2cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92931
Plate XXVII, Mother & Child (C. 697).

Etching, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 22.5 x 17.5cm, Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92932
Plate XXVIII, Mother & Child (C. 698).

Etching and aquatint and roulette printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 35.9 x 27.7cm, Sheet: 62 x 52.1cm.

ref:92933
Plate XXIX, Mother & Child (C. 699).

Etching and aquatint and roulette and drypoint printed in colours, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer’s blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Spence Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 21.3 x 27.7cm, Sheet: 44 x 52.1cm.

ref: 92934
Plate XXX, Mother & Child (C. 700).

Etching, 1983, signed in pencil, inscribed with the plate number, numbered 4/65 (there were also 15 hors de commerce proofs) on Arches wove paper, with the printer's blindstamp, James Collyer and John Crossly, London. Published by Raymond Specer Company Ltd for the Henry Moore foundation, Much Hadham, Plate: 24.8 x 16.2cm. Sheet: 52.1 x 44cm.

ref: 92935