

Care and Maintenance Guidelines for Henry Moore's *Two Piece Reclining No 3*

Two Piece Reclining No. 3 was fully repatinated in Summer 2022. Through careful study and skilled application, the artist's intent for appearance was replicated to when it was installed in 1968.

Outdoor sculptures require regular maintenance to protect the artist specified surface appearance and ultimately their substrates. It is imperative that *Two Piece Reclining No. 3* be cleaned and waxed to extend the appearance of the recent repatination treatment.

Without maintenance the protective wax surface will dissipate, exposing the underlying patina, which will in itself weather and deteriorate. A deteriorated patina no longer is in keeping with the artist's intent for appearance, does not protect the bronze, and the sculpture can also develop failures.

EXAMINATION

Every year the sculpture should be thoroughly examined. The examination will assess the sculpture's surface and structural condition and allow changes to be made in the maintenance routine to prolong the life of the patina. The following questions should be considered:

- How dirty is the sculpture including both soot/soiling and biological debris buildup? Twice a year cleaning is recommended. Is this amount of cleaning sufficient?
- Note and then monitor the locations of splits and cracks.

CLEANING

Leaves and other biological debris should be removed promptly when found. The sculpture will require overall washing on a twice-yearly basis and also intermittent washing to remove bird guano as needed. The sculpture should be washed to remove biological debris and surface soiling in the following manner.

- Rinse the sculpture overall with tap water using a standard spray nozzle.
- Fill a bucket with water and add Orvus detergent. The amount of detergent added should be sparse – enough to create a few bubbles but not overly bubbly – a teaspoon or so is sufficient.
- Clean the sculpture with large natural sponges or very soft brushes. Take care to avoid hitting the sculpture with the plastic edges of the brushes. Suitable brushes are often sold in the automobile section of hardware stores. It is best to not let soapy water dry on the surface and it may require working in sections to avoid this, especially on a hot day. For tenacious soiling, pre-wet the surface well prior to washing. Soft cloths or paper towels are not recommended since they will leave linters behind.
- Thoroughly rinse the sculpture to remove all traces of detergent.

WAXING

- Waxing should be done immediately after cleaning. Do not wax on a day when the bronze has become hot to the touch or else the appearance of the patina will be affected. Maintenance is best done when temps are in the low-to-mid 70's with cloudy, slightly overcast skies.
- Once the sculpture is completely dry (even in deep crevices), apply clear paste Trewax® in thin coats with a large round natural bristle brush.
- Buff the sculpture with a soft cloth.
- Apply a second layer of wax to upper facing surfaces and buff.

These guidelines are developed for *Two Piece Reclining No. 3*. Other outdoor sculptures will have individual needs that may require different maintenance protocols.

Suppliers:

-Orvus WA Paste Detergent: An anionic, biodegradable detergent that contains no phosphorus. Available from Conservation Resources International, LLC. 5532 Port Royal Road Springfield, Virginia 22151USA.

- Trewax® Clear Paste Wax available from Beaumont Products, Inc. Kennesaw, GA 30144.

- Patina brushes are available from many sources such as The Torrington Brush Company and The Compleat Sculptor, Inc.