

**Press Release**  
**July 30<sup>th</sup> 2020**

## **Furnitubes benches complement art forms in gallery garden**

***Although The Hepworth Wakefield art gallery is currently closed, people can still visit the surrounding garden for free and admire the planting and outdoor sculptures, taking a rest on unusual garden benches supplied by Furnitubes.***

The garden was designed by landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith to complement the gallery, which houses Wakefield's art collection and provides a legacy for Barbara Hepworth in the town in which she was born.

Established in 1934, the original Wakefield Art Gallery became one of the most forward-thinking galleries of its time, supporting artists including Hepworth and Henry Moore early in their careers. With gifts from local industrialists, the gallery built a collection of works by some of the most significant and avant-garde British artists of the 20th century. Supporting contemporary artists and developing the collection for future generations is something that The Hepworth Wakefield, now in an acclaimed building that opened in 2001, continues to be committed to today.



The construction of a dedicated garden space, located on a former uninspiring flat grassed area between a 19th-century red-brick mill and the 21st-century art gallery, is the latest development at The Hepworth Wakefield. The layout echoes the striking, angular shapes of the gallery architecture while also harnessing a naturalism that reflects Barbara Hepworth's deep connection to the landscape.

The benches designed by Tom Stuart-Smith are large scale concrete block forms with inset timber seating pads. At over 4m long, and weighing 2200kg each, the benches were at the very limit of a single piece concrete moulding and required the set-up of a dedicated new mould specifically for the 4 benches supplied. The garden provides step-free access for use by the widest possible audience to pass through the space en route to the gallery and also to enjoy this inspiring setting.

**Ends**

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