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## Lynn Chadwick - Biography

Born in London in 1914, Chadwick studied architecture and worked as a designer before emerging in the 1950's, after his war service as a pilot, as a sculptor with a distinctive and dramatic style. He began to make constructions and mobiles of metal and glass in 1945. Though he came to sculpture late, he was selected to show two major works at the Festival of Britain in London in 1951 and was thereby launched onto the international stage as one of a new generation of British sculptors shown at the Venice Biennale in 1952. He had one man shows early in his career at Gimplel Fils, London in 1950 and 1952 and in, 1956, cemented his prominence when he was awarded the principal prize, ahead of Giacometti, at the Venice Biennale, where a retrospective exhibition of his work was shown. By this time, his work was being bought by numerous major public and private collections both in America and Europe, and exhibited at major galleries regularly.

His work unmistakably caught the post-war mood, along with contemporaries such as Eduardo Paolozzi. Throughout the 1950's Chadwick, whose work was largely abstract but with suggestions of the human figure, was prominent amongst that group of metal sculptors who followed in the steps of Henry Moore.

During the 1960's his work became more block-like and monumental, much of it designed to be seen in the open. For much of his life, the work seemed to have been more highly regarded abroad than in his native Britain, and from the early 1960s onwards he received a steady flow of public commissions and private sales in America and Europe, particularly in Italy. Among the most notable of these was a commission he received, along with David Smith and Alexander Calder, to create sculptures for the 1962 Spoleto Festival (the Two Winged Figures is among the largest and most abstract sculptures he produced), and later in the decade, a commission for the Milan Esposizione Triennale in 1968. By the end of the decade he had started working on complex groups of figures. With their heads often reduced to pyramidal, diamond or block like shapes and their simplified forms, these works are amongst the most immediately recognisable of Chadwick's work.

In the early 1970's he opened his own foundry at Lypiatt Park, his home in Gloucestershire, undertaking and controlling all the technical production work on his sculptures himself. Only in the 1980's did he start to employ a technical workshop manager, enabling him to explore and produce some quite massive sheet-steel sculpture, most notably for public commissions in America (Palm beach Airport, Florida 1988) and France (Citroen factory at Le Ponant, Paris 1988). In the 1980's and 1990's Chadwick was given exhibitions in Paris, London, New York and Tokyo. Perhaps the exhibition which most clearly recognised his international status, though, was the invitation from the Venice Biennale of 1988 to create a large piece for that year's exhibition. Entitling the piece *Back to Venice* he returned to the scene of his first great success and created a sculpture of two massive figures, male and female, side by side, instantly recognisable as his.

Failing eyesight forced him to retire in 1996, by then a figure of recognised importance in the story of post-war British sculpture. At the time of his death in April 2003, he was aware of the plans for a major retrospective exhibition of his work to be held at the Tate Britain later that year.

Chadwick was appointed CBE in 1994, and became a Royal Academician in 2001. He was the recipient of numerous European honours.

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- 1914 Lynn Russell Chadwick born 24th November at Ivy Cottage, Station Road, Barnes, the elder child and only son of Verner Russell Chadwick and Margery Brown Lynn
- 1926-32 Attended Merchant Taylor's School, London
- 1932 Visited France to improve his French; stayed at Vouvray, near Tours; returned via Paris; saw Epstein's tomb for Oscar Wilde
- 1933-39 Trained and worked as a draughtsman in various architectural firms in London; attended evening classes at Regent Street Polytechnic in an attempt to become a qualified architect but abandoned the course.
- 1940-41 Worked as a farm labourer in Hertfordshire
- 1941-44 Volunteered for the fleet Air Arm, Royal Navy. Training in Detroit and Canada. Met Charlotte Ann Secord in Toronto and married her in 1942. First child Simon born. Chadwick qualified as a pilot and commissioned.
- 1944-46 Resumed work with architect Rodney Thomas in London, specialising in exhibition design. Lived in house at 2 Cheyne Row, Chelsea.
- 1946 March: moved to Fisher's Cottage, near Edge Stroud, Gloucestershire, on the estate of the architect Detmar Blow. Won a £ 50 prize in textile design. Made his first mobile, developed from ideas of moving sculptural objects proposed by Rodney Thomas.
- 1947-52 Produced textile, furniture and architectural designs.
- 1947 First mobile shown at the Builder's Trades Exhibition, on the Aluminium Development Association's stand, which he had designed.
- 1948 Mobile for Morris Furniture Company of Glasgow stand at British Industry's Fair
- 1949 Small mobile for window of Gimpel Fils, London, as part of a mixed exhibition
- 1949-50 December – January: exhibited with the London Group
- 1950 Commissioned by Jane Drew to make a mobile for the Riverside Restaurant Tower and by Misha Black for a stabile, Cypress, to be placed in the garden of the Regatta Restaurant, both for the Festival of Britain South Bank site.
- June: first one-man exhibition, Gimpel Fils, London
- Summer: took welding course at British Oxygen Company's Welding School, Cricklewood.
- 1951 Festival of Britain South Bank Exhibition: metal and wood mobile for Tower, Riverside Restaurant and stabile, Cypress, for the Regatta Restaurant Garden.
- May – September: exhibited Green Finger (Mobile) at the second Open-Air Sculpture Exhibition, Battersea Park Festival Garden.
- July: Fisheater mobile commissioned by the Arts Council, shown at the RBA Galleries

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- 1952 Second One-Man exhibition at Gimpel Fils, also shown at the Galerie de France, Paris. Included in British Council's New Aspects of British Sculpture exhibition for the XXVI Biennale, Venice. Member of the London Group
- 1953 First solid sculptures produced
- March: one of twelve semi-finalists for The Unknown Political Prisoner International Sculpture Competition organised by the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London – awarded honourable mention and £250 prize.
- 1956 Won the International Prize for Sculpture, XXVIII Biennale, Venice
- 1958 Moved to Lypiatt Park, near Stroud, Gloucestershire
- 1959 Won first prize, III Concorso Internazionale del Bronzetto, Padua
- Divorced from his first wife. Married Frances Mary Jamieson: daughters Sarah and Sophie
- 1960 Signed two year contract with Marlborough Fine Art, London; regularly exhibited with them.
- 1961 Exhibited hors concours at VI Bienal de São Paulo, Brazil
- 1962 Prize-winner at VII Esposizione di Bianco e Nero, Lugano
- Artist in residence for a term at Ontario College of Art, Toronto
- Invited by Italsider S.p.A., Genoa, with Alexander Calder and David Smith, to carry out an open-air sculpture project for the Festival dei Due Monde at Spoleto, on recommendation of Giovanni Carandente, Museo d'Arte Moderna, Rome
- June: Two Winged Figures, monumental steel box structures, exhibited at Spoleto
- 1963 Received Carborundum Company's Sculpture Major and Minor Awards to produce circular sculpture in fibreglass, Manchester Sun, for the front of the Williamson Building for Life Science, University of Manchester
- 1964 Appointed Commander, Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the New Year Honours.
- Death of Frances Chadwick
- Represented in London Group 1914-64 Jubilee Exhibition (although ceased to be a member in 1963).
- Elected member of the Accademia di San Luca, Rome
- Elected member of the Accademia Fiorentina delle Arti e Disegno, Florence
- Married Eva Yvonne Reiner: one son Daniel Sebastian
- 1968 Environmental sculpture for Milan Esposizione Triennale
- 1970 Made jewellery for Rebecca John

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- 1971      Opened his own foundry at Lypiatt Park
- 1973      Four lithographs for Club S. Erasmo, Milan
- 1984      Commissioned by the British Art Medal Society to design a medal, Diamond, struck by the Pobjoy Mint for the BAMS
- 1985      June: created Officier, Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France
- 1986      Autumn: acquired large warehouse at Lypiatt and equipped it as a workshop and sculpture store
- 1988      February: chairman of jury, sculpture project for new Glaxo Building, Verona  
Visited Miami and Caracas, Venezuela, in connection with a touring exhibition  
June – September: invited by the Director of the XLIII Venice Biennale to contribute bronze, Back to Venice, in special international sculpture survey.  
November: appointed the Order of the Andreas Bello – First Class, Venezuela
- 1989      March: acquired second workshop and studio at Chalford  
24 April: inauguration of Hello Paris at Le Pontant de Paris  
Summer: began to place sculpture in Toadsmoor Valley, adjoining Lypiatt Park  
Closed foundry, Pangolin editions to cast all his work
- 1993      Created Commandeur, Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France
- 1995      Created Associate, Académie Royale de Belgique, Belgium and Honorary Fellow, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education
- 1996      Failing Eyesight forced him to retire; he became increasingly infirm
- 1998      Created Honorary Fellow, Bath Spa University College, Bath
- 2001      Elected a Senior Royal Academician, Royal Academy of Arts, London
- 2003      25th April died at Lypiatt Park. He was buried there in the Pinetum.
- 2003      15th September – 21 March 2004, Tate Britain, London