



barbara hepworth

shapes out of feelings

imagine... *barbara hepworth* shapes out of feelings

In Barbara Hepworth's centenary year, marked by nationwide exhibitions, *Imagine* takes a fresh look at the life and work of this major British artist and political activist. This is the story of a determined female artist in a man's world, a wife and mother, who became a leading 20th-century sculptor of immense renown.

The film explores the huge effect Hepworth's personal relationships and family had on her work, how she struggled, virtually penniless, with a young son and triplets, and how, together with her second husband, the painter Ben Nicholson, she pioneered a wholly abstract art in the years before the Second World War.

In 1939, to escape London's bombs, Hepworth took her young family to St Ives in Cornwall. There she rediscovered the emotional pull of landscape, and this inspired the great majority of her post-war work. She really believed that abstract art was a universal language capable of helping to heal the divisions of a world shattered by war.

Having overcome deep problems in her private life, Hepworth herself died tragically in a fire in 1975.

Imagine looks at the artist – in many ways a woman ahead of her time – and at the enduring power of her art today.