

# WILLIAM TURNBULL



*Male figure (1979)*

William Turnbull, also known as Bill, was born in 1922 in Dundee, Scotland and died in November 2012, aged 90. The bronze sculpture *Male Figure* is located in the Pinetum at the south west corner of the Grotto Pond at Chatsworth.

William Turnbull's work is in a Minimalist style which eliminates all non-essential features and uses the simplest and fewest elements to capture the identity of the subject. To reflect this, his work uses simple titles, for example *Head* or *Mask* and many of his paintings are often titled with just a date or number.

His interest in art started with painting at the Slade School of Fine Art, London in 1946, but he quickly transferred to the sculpture department. He has experimented with creating sculptures in a variety of materials including steel, perspex and fibreglass.

Turnbull's uncle was a coppersmith, and from him he learned how to solder metal together. One of his sculptures called *Game* (1949), consisted of rods which could be moved into different holes on a platform.

William Turnbull is also well known for his abstract paintings. They were created with broad horizontal brush-strokes using large areas of colour such as blues, ochres and greens and are packed with energy to create simple, dramatic pieces.

William Turnbull served as pilot with the RAF during World War two

## DISCUSS

Have a look at one of his paintings shown here. How do you think his experiences as a pilot may have influenced this work?

An exhibition of William Turnbull's sculpture, paintings and drawings at Chatsworth.

10th March - 30th June 2013

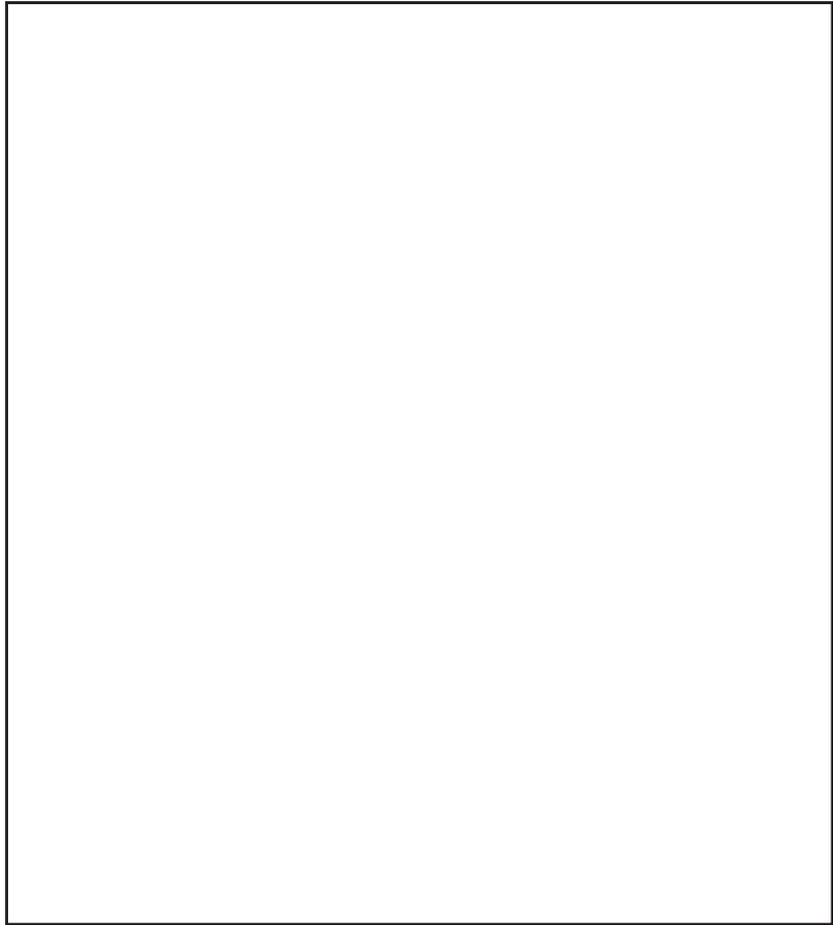
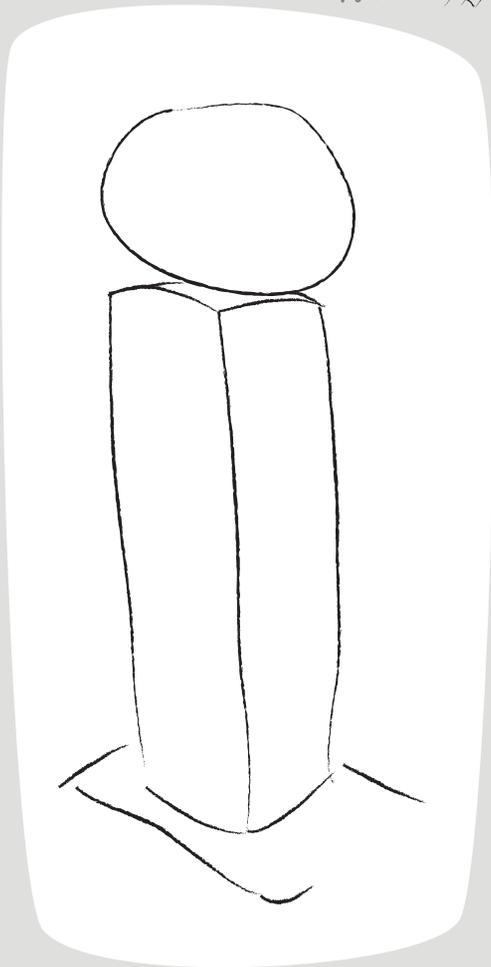
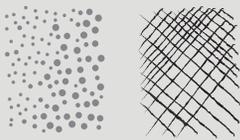
This is only the third time that work by a single artist has been exhibited at Chatsworth.



23 - 1958  
Oil on canvas



Shade and add detail to the drawing



Create an abstract, flat representation of *Male figure* in the style of a Turnbull painting. Use shading, but no outline.



Examine the texture of the sculpture.  
Find an interesting area to draw.

Again using shading, but no outlines, create an abstract flat representation of an aerial view of the Grotto Pond.

For more information about the artist visit his website at <http://williamturnbullart.com>

## SOURCES

View a video about the artist called Beyond Time at <http://vimeo.com/40571599>

What colours would you use to create larger versions of these abstract drawings?

## THINK

What other sources of inspiration can you find at Chatsworth to create abstract work?