



# Baby asleep

Jacob Epstein

---

## On display

**Title/Description:** Baby asleep

**Artist/Maker:** Jacob Epstein

**Born:** 1902 - 1904

**Object Type:** Sculpture

**Materials:** Bronze

**Measurements:** h. 104 x w. 138 x d. 115 mm

**Accession Number:** 75

**Historic Period:** 20th century

**Production Place:** Britain, England, Europe

**Credit Line:** Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

---

Born in America, Epstein studied in New York before moving to Paris in 1902, and then to London in 1905, where he settled and became a British citizen. This exquisite bronze was the first sculpture in the collection ever to be acquired by Robert Sainsbury, and indeed the earliest known of Epstein's sculptures.

*Baby Asleep* was modelled from life, the subject was the infant of a young model who came to Epstein's Paris studio. For the Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, this serene object represents more than Robert's first acquisition, but a number of significant relationships. In Paris, Epstein met Picasso and Modigliani, and some years later - by then equally acclaimed and vilified as the forerunner of the modern movement - Epstein championed the young Henry Moore. The pair shared an early commitment to the direct carving of material and a fascination with the 'primitive' collections of the British Museum.

—

Amanda Geitner, Director, East Anglia Art Fund

---

---

---

## Provenance

Acquired by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury before 1932.

Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia in 1973 as part of the original gift.

---