

**Jacob Epstein**

Audio Guide transcript of National Sound Archive recording

In 1954, the year of his knighthood, he described the artistic process of creating a sculpture:

‘Many imagine that the artist having his waking hours like any other craftsman, thinks only when in front of his work about its practical problems of shaping and chiseling, but this is not so. The work of sculptors engaged on this continually in his mind: he sees it with his mind’s eye and quite clearly so that at any moment of the day or night or even when lying down to sleep, the vision of the work and progress is there for analysis as an inescapable presence. I would say that on a work like this, one lives with it (*stutter*) until it’s finally finished, and one has gone on to some other work which is very much (?) placed in one’s thoughts. It is a question whether one is more filled with beginning the work than in finishing it. I think beginning is the more exciting: the finished work – well, there it is. All one’s ardents and hesitations are over, problems solved. The sculptor with his vision, planning, working, laying loving hands upon the willing and love-retaining stone. The creation of a work, the form embodying idea, strange copulation’s of spirit and matter, the intellect dominating hammer and chisel, the conception that at last becomes a piece of sculpture.’