

# Sculpture Park



## Teacher Packet



## **Sculpture Park**

- Thirty of the institution's 125 acres have been developed for the permanent presentation of sculpture.
- More than twenty works from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present are displayed in a variety of natural and garden settings.
- Works by important modern sculptors including Auguste Rodin, Aristide Maillol, Jacques Lipchitz, Henry Moore, Louise Bourgeois, Louise Nevelson, George Rickey, Mark di Suvero, Magdalena Abakanowicz and Keith Haring are featured.
- Each sculpture setting was designed to blend with the natural setting; in many instances the artists themselves were involved in the placement and in the development of the site.
- The Sculpture Park debuted May 16, 2002 with an initial 24 works. The site was planned to house another 50-60 works to be added over time.
- Different aspects may be covered on tours.
  - Realistic
  - Abstract
  - Non-objective
  - Figurative Works
  - Materials
  - Scale
  - Interpretation

## **Michigan Curriculum Standards and Benchmarks:**

### **Visual Arts:**

**Historical, Cultural and Social Contexts** To promote students' understanding and appreciation of artistic and cultural heritage and the role of art in contemporary society.

**Creating Art and the Art Process** To provide expressive and creative opportunities for experiences with art tools and materials in a sequential process acknowledging the schematic development of the student.

**Art Analysis/Criticism** Through talking and writing about art in various ways that are developmentally appropriate for the students, the learner will gain the ability to observe, describe, analyze, interpret and make critical judgments about form and content of art.

**Aesthetics: A Philosophical Basis for Art** To promote an understanding of the nature, meaning and value of art as an important component of art education. The discussion of these philosophical questions sets art apart from other areas of the curriculum.

### **Social Sciences:**

Strand I. Historical Perspective

Content Standard 2: All students will understand narratives about the major eras of American and world history by identifying the people involved, describing the setting, and sequencing events.

Standard 1.1: Time and Chronology

Standard 1.2: Comprehending the Past

## **Classroom Activities:**

These activities are suggestions for enhancing your visit to the Sculpture Park and can be adjusted for all grade levels.

- Write a story about a piece of sculpture you saw in a photograph or on your tour. Make the sculpture come to life.
- Make sculptures based on pieces you saw in the Sculpture Park out of found objects such as toilet paper rolls, buttons, pipe cleaners or any thing else you can find.
- Make a drawing of a sculpture you would like to make. Think about decisions artists have to make:
  - What idea do I want to express?
  - How big will the piece be?
  - Will it be realistic or abstract?
  - What materials will I use?
  - What title will I give the sculpture?
- Have the students assume the role of an art critic. Prior to the tour, assign students pieces to analyze. Ask them to write an article of 200 words or less. Encourage humor and creative thinking.
- Compare and contrast two figurative pieces in the Sculpture Park (you could use Keith Haring's *Julia* and Auguste Rodin's *Eve*). How have these artists depicted the human figure? What are the similarities and differences? What do they reflect about the time in which they were created? What would the two sculptures say to each other if they suddenly came alive?
- After the tour, ask the students to vote on the sculptures in the Park using the attached set of voting cards. Give each student a set to cut up to become 6 voting cards. Use the map from your tour, write the artist's names on the board or print images from [www.sculpturesitesgr.org](http://www.sculpturesitesgr.org) and review each sculpture. Ask the students to vote with their cards.
  - This is my favorite piece.
  - This piece is especially interesting from different angles.
  - This piece looks great in its setting.
  - I would like to learn more about this artist.
  - I don't understand this piece.
  - This piece makes me think.

Tally the scores and discuss the results.

# favorite



This is my favorite piece.

# different angles

This piece is especially interesting from different angles.



# setting



This piece looks great in its setting.

# learn more



I would like to learn more about this artist.

# don't understand



I don't understand this piece.

# think



This piece makes me think.

## Helpful Websites and Reference Materials

### Sculpture on the web:

General information about many of the artists whose works are a part of the Meijer Sculpture Park can be found at

[www.the-artists.org](http://www.the-artists.org)

For specific information about:

Keith Haring go to

[www.haring.com](http://www.haring.com)

Henry Moore go to

[www.henry-moore-fdn.co.uk](http://www.henry-moore-fdn.co.uk)

Louise Nevelson go to

[www.sheldon.unl.edu/HTML/ARTIST/Nevelson\\_L/SSII.html](http://www.sheldon.unl.edu/HTML/ARTIST/Nevelson_L/SSII.html)

Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen go to

[www.oldenburgvanbruggen.com](http://www.oldenburgvanbruggen.com)

George Rickey go to

[www.stormkingartcenter.org/GeorgeRickey.html](http://www.stormkingartcenter.org/GeorgeRickey.html)

August Rodin go to

[www.musee-rodin.fr](http://www.musee-rodin.fr)

[www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov)

### Sculpture Books:

Barrie, Brooke. Contemporary Outdoor Sculpture. Rockport Publishers, Inc. 1999

Causey, Andrew. Sculpture Since 1945. Oxford University Press, 1998

Curtis, Penelope. Sculpture: 1900 – 1945. Oxford University Press, 1999

Greenberg/Jordan. The Sculptor's Eye: Looking at Contemporary American Art. Delacorte Press, 1993.

Robinette, Margaret. Outdoor Sculpture: Object and Environment. Whitney Library of Design, 1976.

Tames, Richard. August Rodin. Heinemann, 2001

(Reference books about many of the artists whose works are a part of the Meijer Sculpture Park are available at the Peter M. Wege Library at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park)