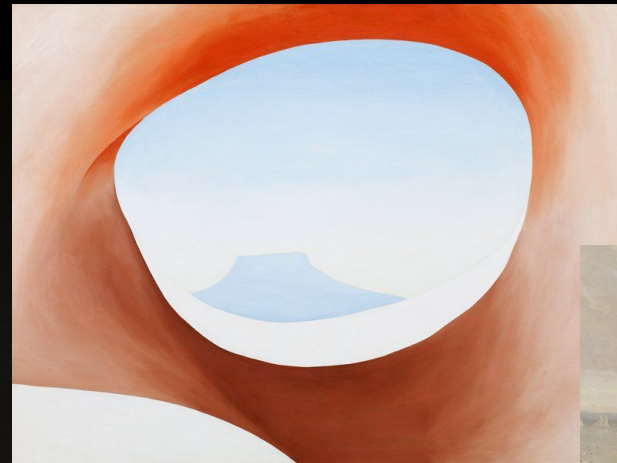


Minneapolis Institute of Art

December 17 and 20, 2024 Artists' Inspirations

Artists' Inspirations		
China, Ch'ing Dynasty	Jade Mountain	210
PNG New Ireland	Frieze from a Malagan	262
William Edmondson	Ram	304
Pablo Picasso	Baboon and Young	OFF
Georgia O'Keeffe	Pedernal - From the Ranch #1	OFF
Julius Brutus Stearns	A Fishing Party off Long Island	OFF

Mia



Agenda

- Artists' Inspirations
- Substitutes worksheet
- Wrap-up

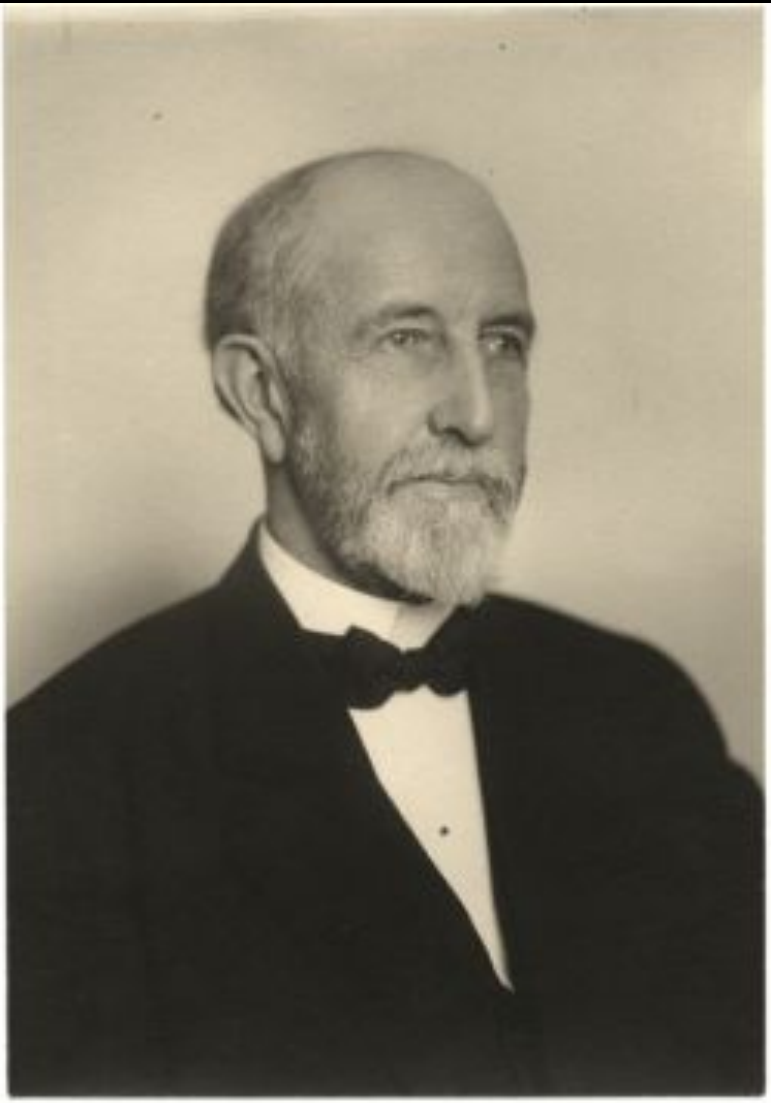


Inspired by nature
and history

CF: Artists
once known



Artists once known, China,
*Jade Mountain Illustrating the
Gathering of Scholars at the
Lanting Pavilion*, 1790, Light
green jade, The John R. Van
Derlip Fund and Gift of the
Thomas Barlow Walker
Foundation, 92.103.13

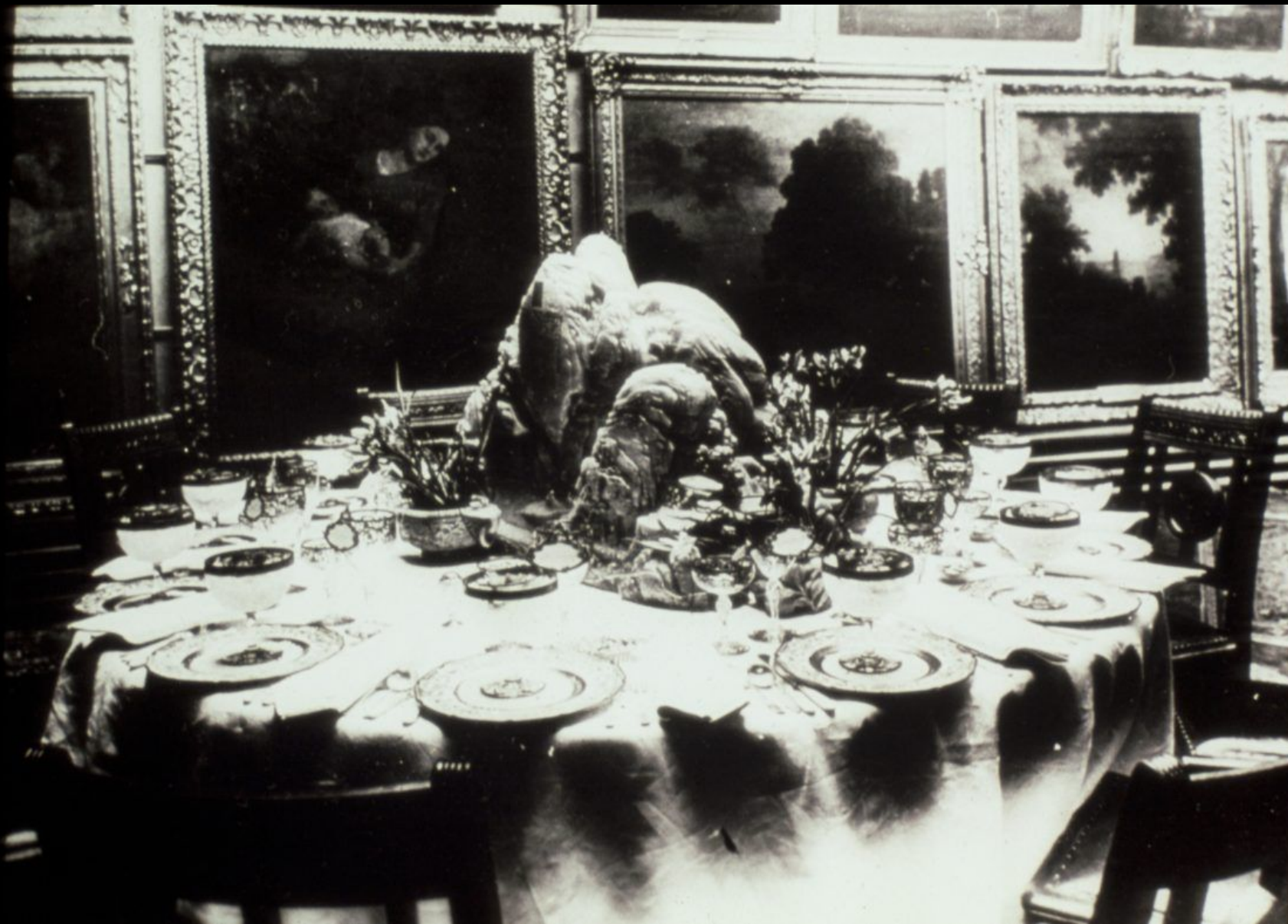


Jade Mountain is the largest jade carving outside of China.

Brought to the U.S. by Herbert Squiers, Secretary of the U.S. Delegation in Peking (Beijing), it was auctioned off after Squiers' death in 1912.

← T.B. Walker of Minneapolis purchased it for \$4,000.

[Jade Mountain Returns](#), Walker Magazine, 2014. Photo of T.B. Walker, MNopedia



T. B. Walker's dinner table,
with Jade Mountain as its
centerpiece.

Mia acquired it formally in
1992.

For the 75th anniversary of
the Walker, Jade Mountain
made a return in 2015.



Qianlong Emperor (ruled 1735 – 1799) in the Qing Dynasty, Painting by Giuseppe Castiglione, Wikipedia.
The Qianlong Emperor commissioned this sculpture.

The scene represents a gathering of famous literati (scholar-officials who practiced the three arts: painting, poetry, and calligraphy) celebrating a Spring Purification Festival in March 353 CE. Wang Xizhi wrote a prelude to the collection of the poems that were created during a drinking contest.



The scene represents a gathering of famous literati at Lanting (Orchid Pavilion) in Shaoxing, a site still in existence today!





What
Jade

Min



Jade is too hard to be carved, but is instead worked slowly with abrasion ([Working with Jade](#)).

Jade (yu) represents some of China's most enduring virtues: benevolence, intelligence, righteousness, faith, wisdom, and courage.

The mountain weighs 640 lbs.



Associative question: Think about something that inspires you, whether it is a person or something in nature. If you could turn your inspiration into an artwork, what would it look like? What materials would you use? Why?

Incorporate the senses with questions: What might you hear, smell, touch, taste on Jade Mountain?

The surrounding gallery also has more jade works, so check out a finer jade carving as well for a quick stop.

What ideas do you have for props for this sculpture?

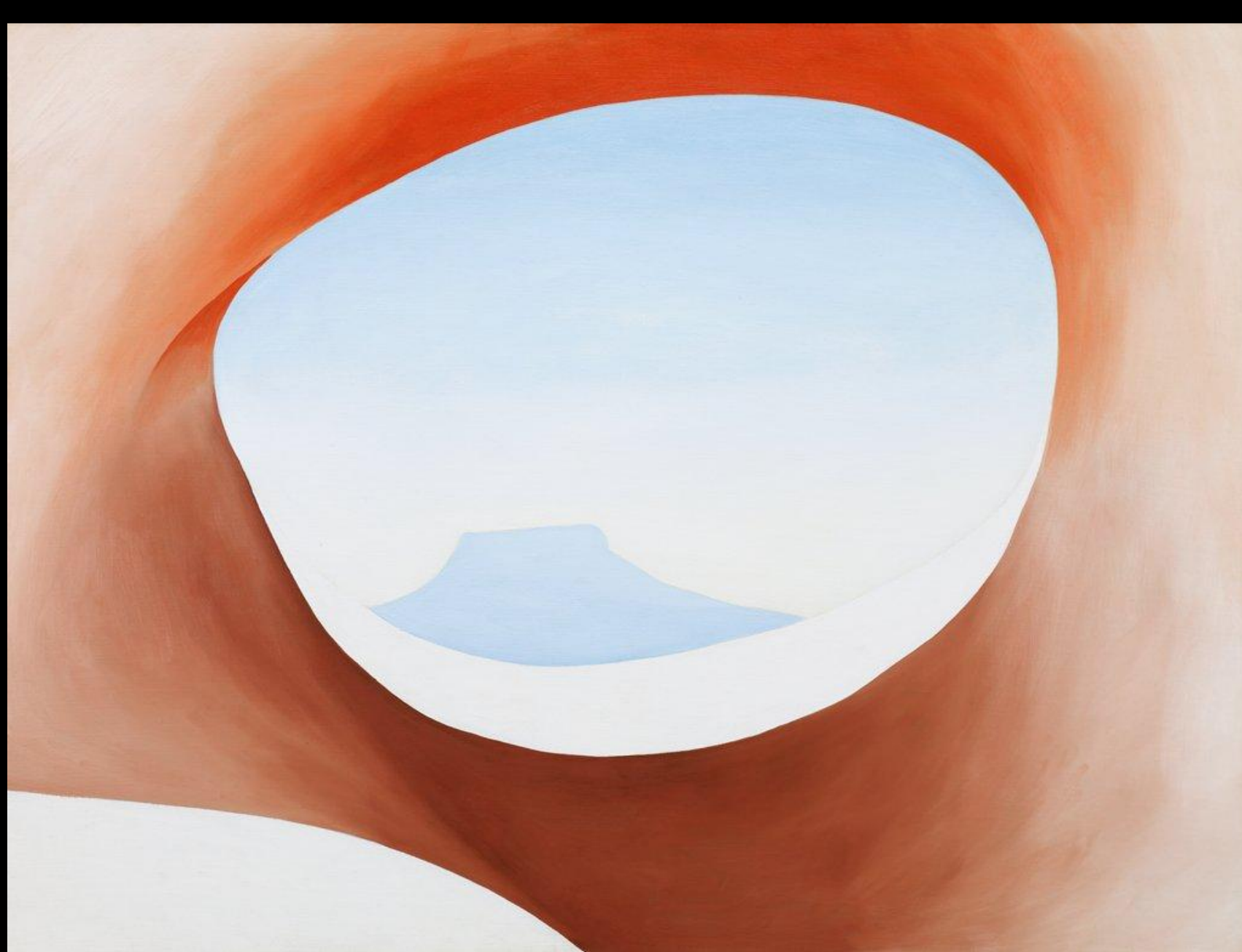
Resources

[Jade Mountain Returns](#), from the Walker Magazine, 2014

[Once at MIA: A man and his mountain](#), Mia blog, 2015

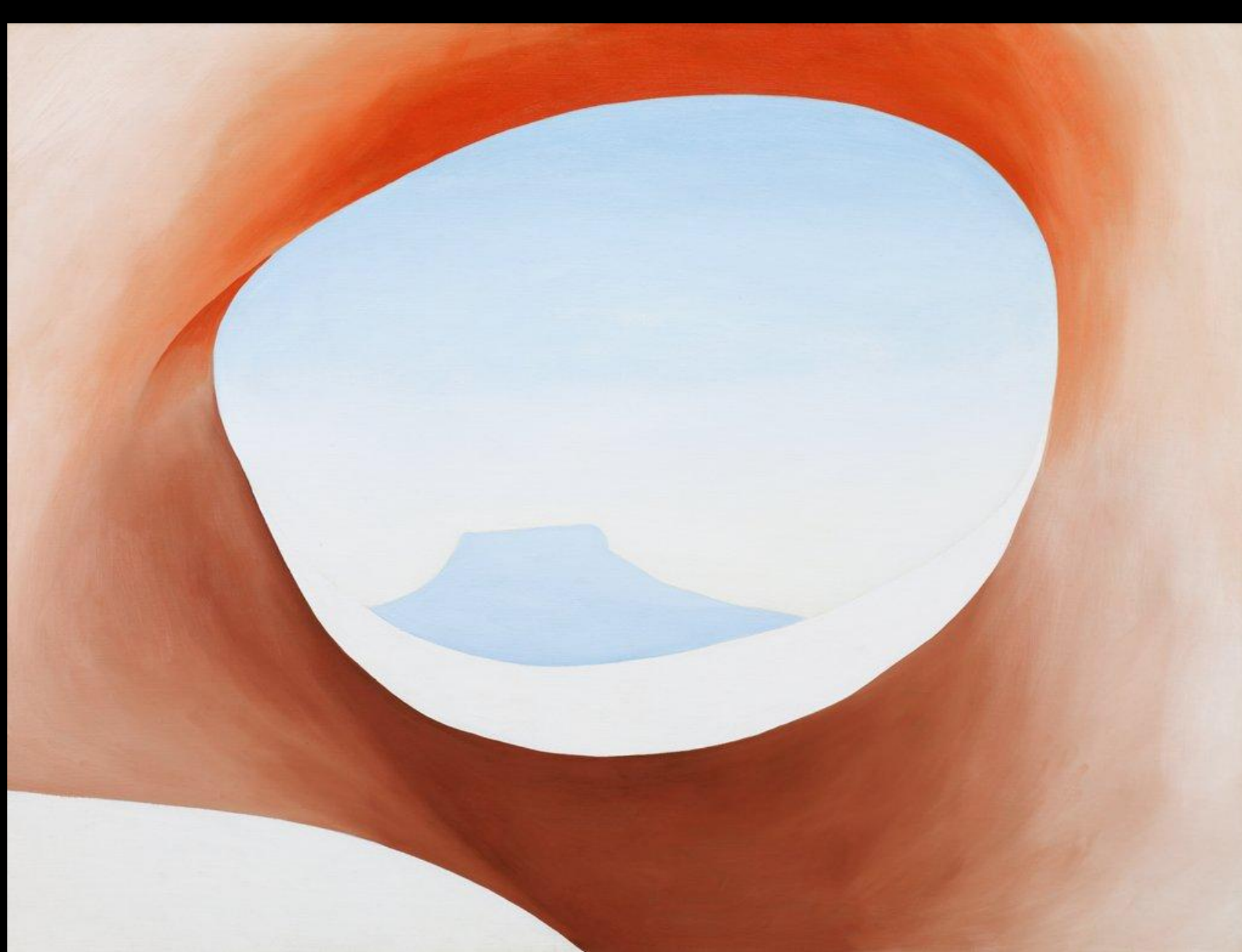
[Working jade](#), Khan Academy (short video and article)

If interested, check out information on [Imperial China's history](#) and [Chinese landscape painting](#) at Khan Academy.

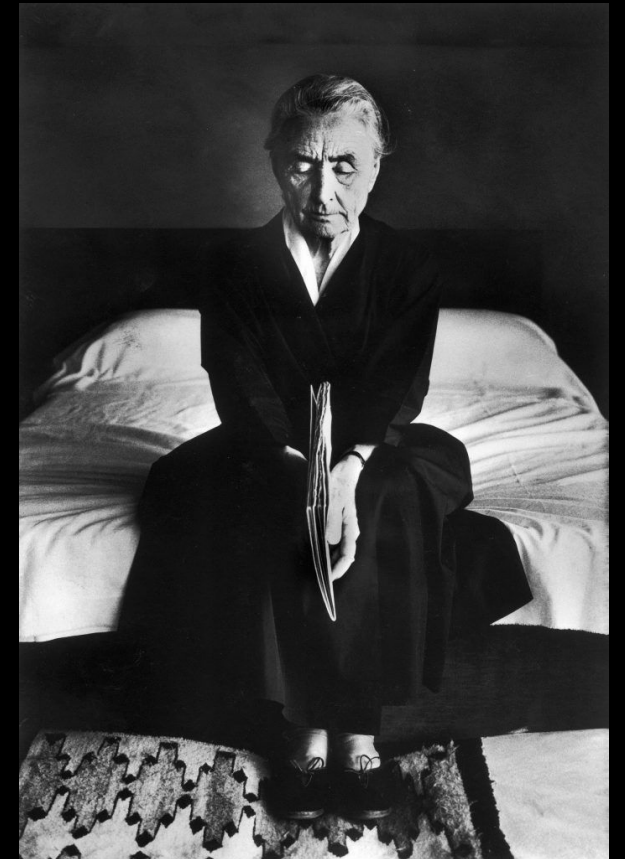


Georgia O'Keeffe, *Pedernal -- From the Ranch #1*, 1956, Oil on canvas, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. John Cowles, 64.43.2, © Georgia O'Keeffe Museum / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

Photo of artist in 1956, Yousuf Karsh



“Nothing is less real than realism. Details are confusing. It is only by selection, by elimination, by emphasis, that we get at the real meaning of things.”





City Night, 1926; The Chestnut Tree (Kunin loan), 1924; Black Place I, 1945

CF: Artist is a woman-- and a modernist. A recent "analysis found that the overall split between male and female artists in America's museums is close to 87% and 13%"





Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keeffe met in 1916, married in 1924, and had a passionate and--at times--tumultuous relationship.

Stieglitz helped promote O'Keeffe's art at the start of her career.

Georgia O'Keeffe, sketching, 1918 and Alfred Stieglitz and O'Keeffe circa 1929.



"in a way—nobody
sees a flower—
really—it is so
small—we haven't
time—and to see takes
time like to have a
friend takes time."
Georgia O'Keeffe

Jimson Weed, White Flower No. 1,
1932 and Red Canna, 1924



O'Keeffe first saw New Mexico in 1917, eventually moving there permanently in 1946.



Pedernal Mountain, Photo HistoryinSantaFe.com

“When I started painting the pelvis bones I was most interested in the holes in the bones—what I saw through them.”

Georgia O’Keeffe, 1962

(From [View Finding in Nature](#))



Substitutes: For subs, think through your theme, in consideration of your assigned route, and find an example between stops. Other works by O’Keeffe are on view, but many artists are inspired by nature and their environment (including lots of Southwestern scenes in G301)



O’Keeffe, Black Place I, 1945, G302



George Morrison, Lake Superior Landscape, 1981 (G303)

Think of what you can not see in an image:

O'Keeffe used the animal bone like a picture frame. Look closely. If the bone was not in the painting, what else do you think you would be able to see? What do you see that makes you say that?

Consider movement activities: Ask students to use their hands to frame an image or scene, rather like binoculars.

Close your eyes if you want, and picture a warm place. What colors come to mind? What colors do you see when you think of a cold place? Describe the colors you see here. What do you think it would feel like to be in this painting? Why?

Resources

[The staggering lack of female artists in America's museums](#), Axios, 2022

[Georgia O'Keeffe](#), profile on the Art Story

From the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, [View Finding in Nature](#), 2020

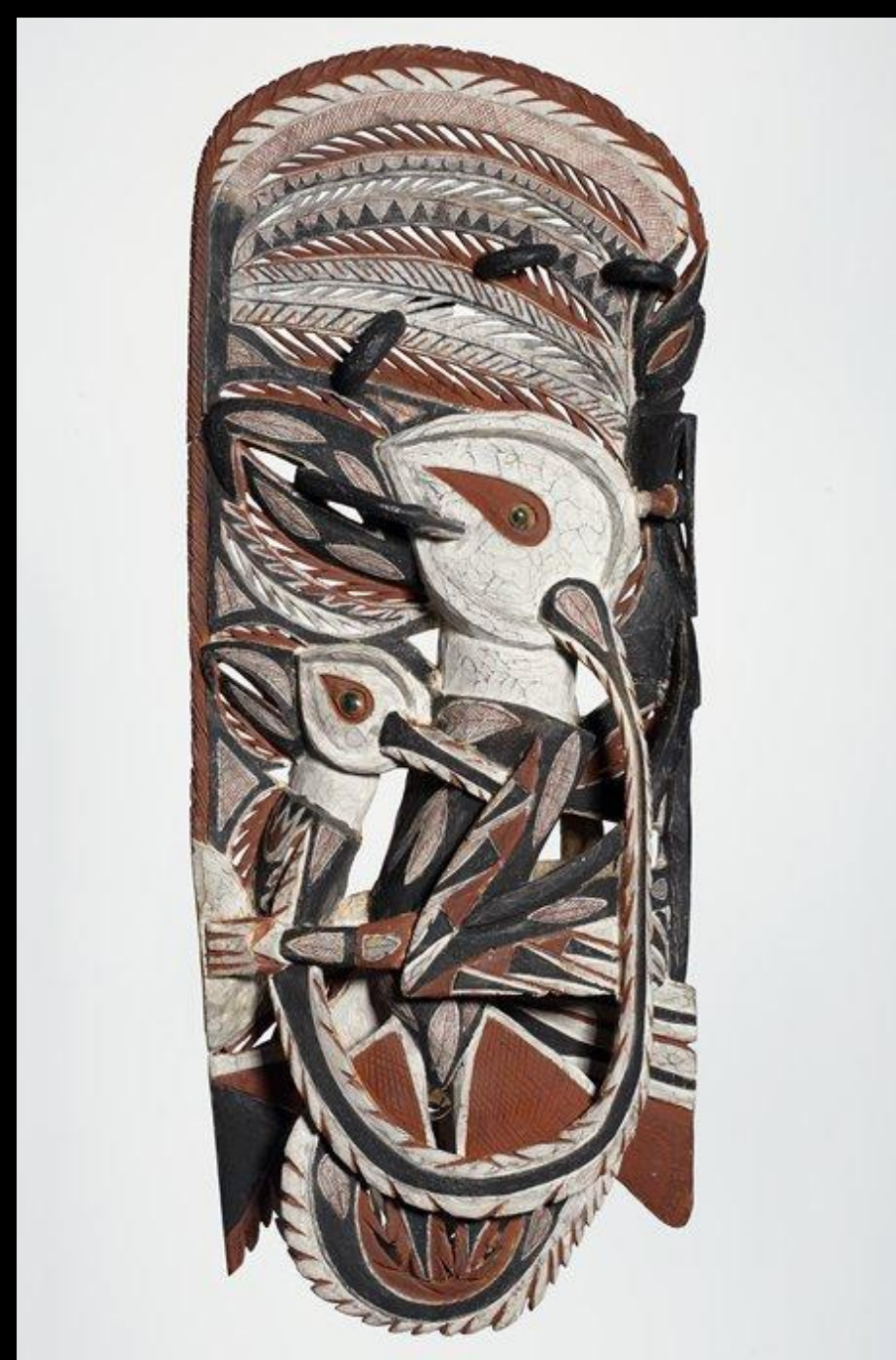
[Lecture with Ariel Plotek](#), curator of fine art at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum

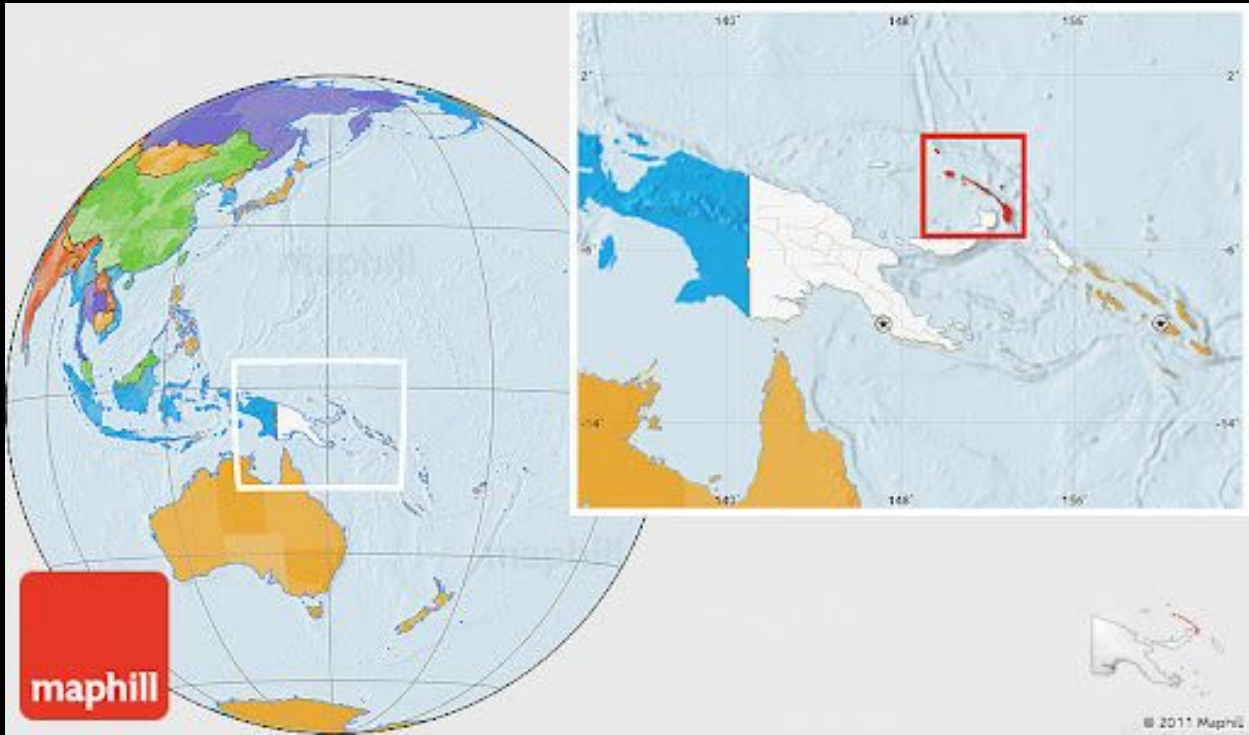


CF: Artist once known

Papua New Guinea, Oceania, Malagan
Frieze, 19th century, Wood, pigment,
shell, Gift of Bruce B. Dayton, 85.94

The birds represent air, and the snakes represent earth. The artist was inspired by his community's traditions and belief systems, and carved this from a single piece of wood.





CF: Identify where New Ireland is located, placing it in Melanesia/Oceania



Papua New Guinea, Map courtesy of Maphill and Smart Travel

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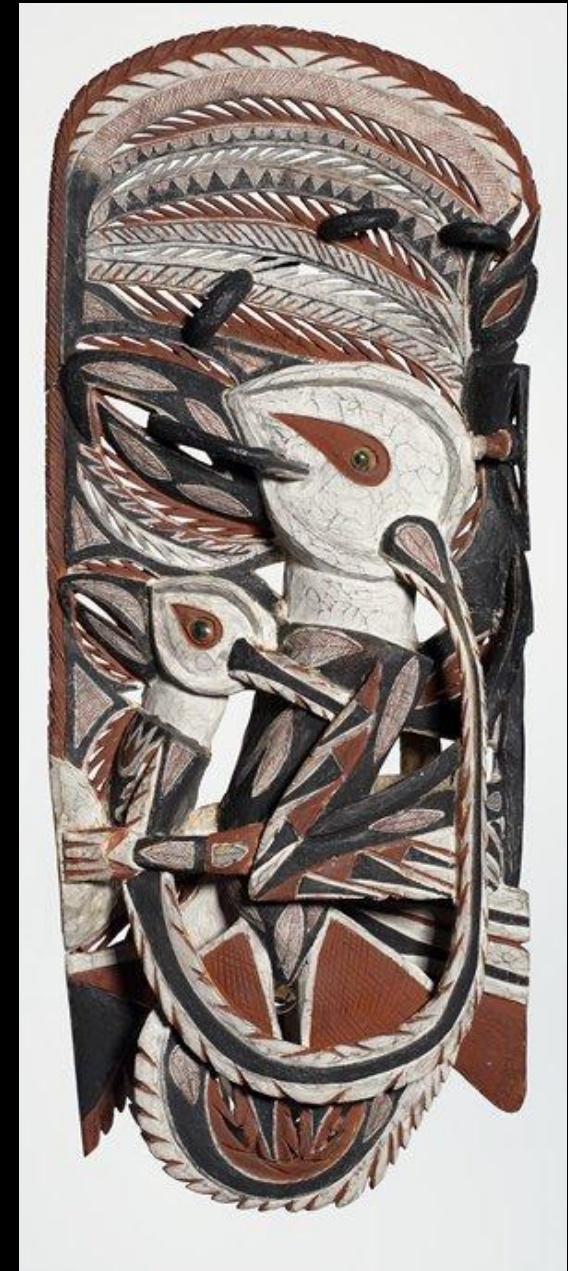
Papua New Guinea, New Ireland, Tsoi-lik Island, New Ireland Province Image Credit: Liebert Kirakar, PNGTPA (above) and <https://papuanewguinea.travel/new-ireland-province>

Malagan may also be spelled malangan or malanggan, and refer to carvings and ceremonies for the deceased.

Carvings take many forms, from masks, to friezes, to poles and figures.

Today, a small number of villages in New Ireland continue to observe the Malagan practice.

([Smarthistory](#)) Malagan Figure, c. 1890, Mia, and



The carvings traditionally were displayed in a structure, revealed to the mourners near the end of the ceremony.

([Smarthistory](#)) Felix Speiser, Group of malagan carvings displayed during a mortuary ceremony, Medina, Northern New Ireland, c. 1930 (Museum der Kulturen Basel)





CF: "Having served their purpose, the malagan carvings are destroyed, allowed to rot, or sold to outsiders."

(<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/313662>)

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The Malagan ceremony involves masked performances to represent the spirit of the deceased.

Tatanua mask, c, 1900-35 (on loan)

CF: Set the context for a masked performance, an important part of the Malagan ceremonies.

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Associative question:

These animals are familiar to New Ireland artists, but you live in the Midwest. If you could carve a frieze, what Midwestern animals would you use to represent earth, sky, and water? Why?

If time, use some of the other Malagan artworks in the gallery, having students look for similarities in how they are made and their style of decoration, helping them realize how complex the Malagan ceremonies are.

What props might you want to use? Any movement activities?

Resources

From Khan Academy: [Malangan](#)

From SmartHistory: [The Life of Malagan](#)

[Malagan Figures from New Ireland, Papua New Guinea](#) (video)

From the Metropolitan Museum of Art: [New Ireland](#)

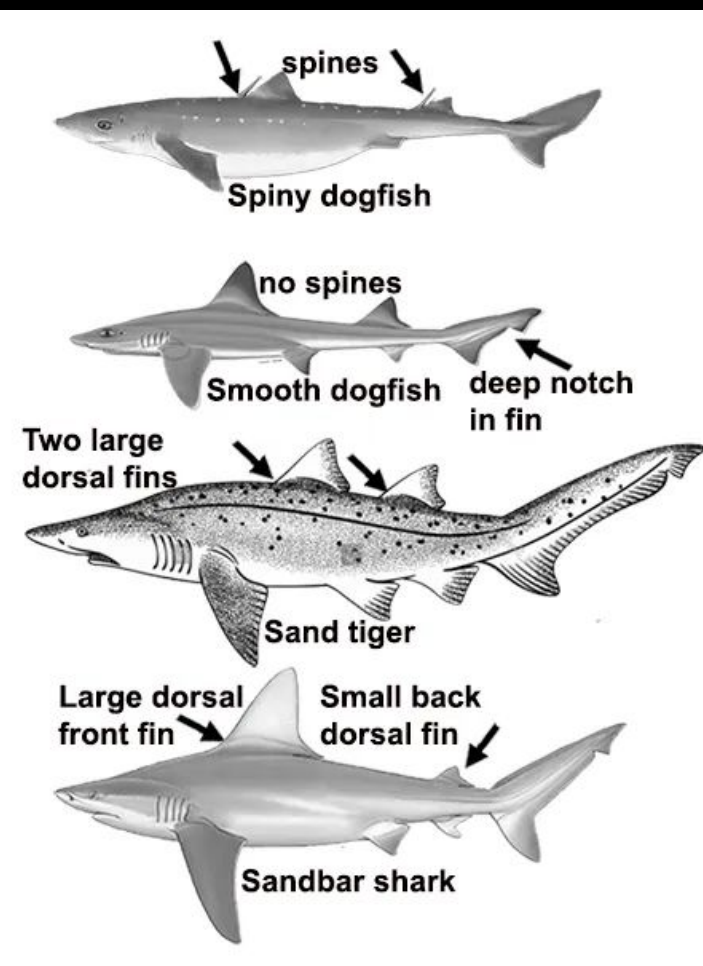
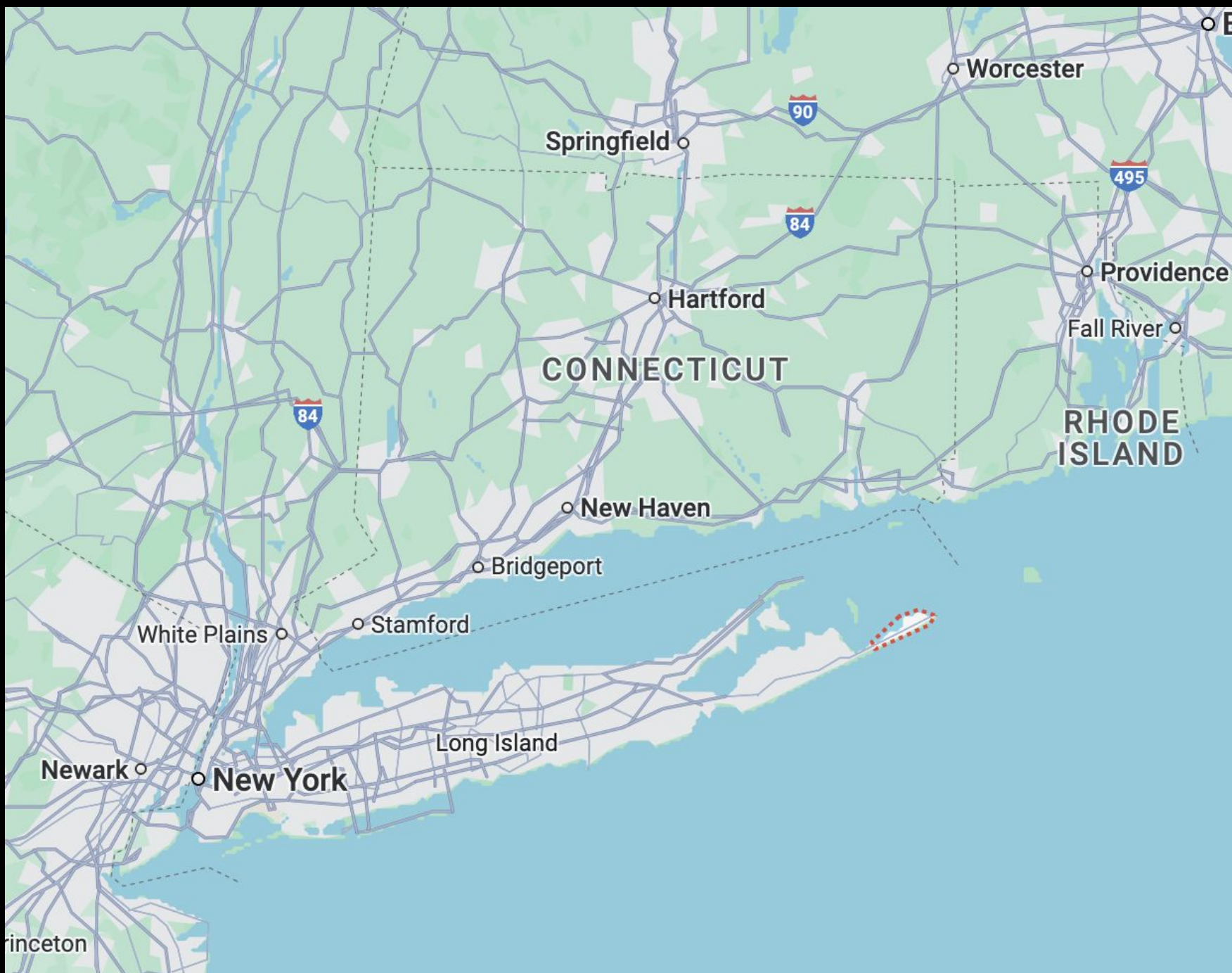


How does the artist visually tell us that these men are friends?

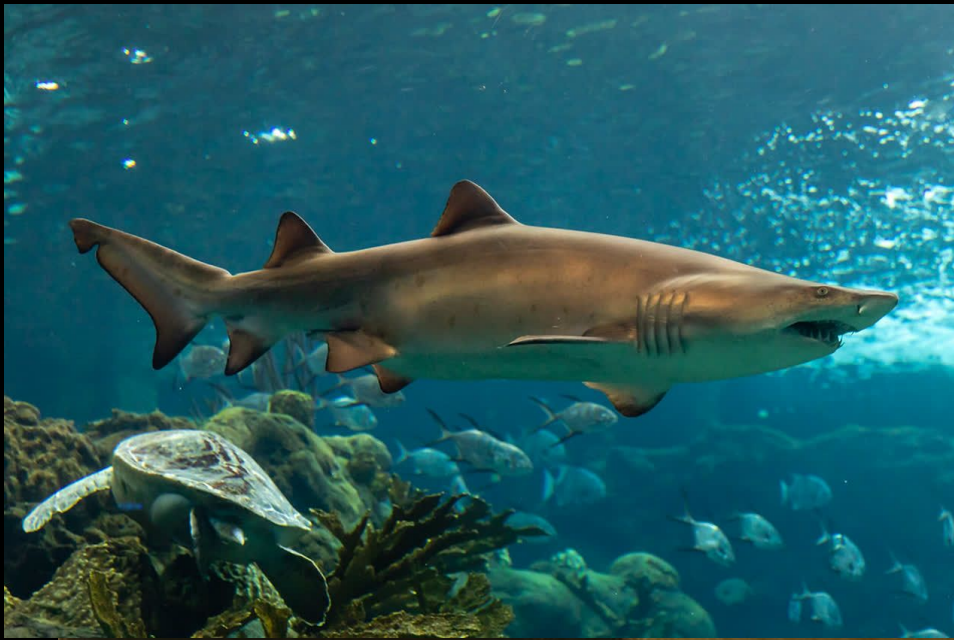
Junius Brutus Stearns, *A Fishing Party Off Long Island*, 1860, Oil on canvas, Gift of the Regis Collection, 78.26

Is this how YOU
would look if you
were just about to
catch a shark?





Montauk, Long Island, Google Maps and shark species of Long Island Sound (liboatingworld.com)



Sand Tiger and Blue Shark

Junius Brutus Stearns was born Lucius Sawyer, but changed his name after a falling out with his father who discouraged his artistic aspirations.

Apparently, fishing was a favorite pastime of the artist.

<https://thejohnsoncollection.org/junius-stearns/>



Stearns traveled to Europe in the late 1840s, and upon return to the U.S., he became known as a “a painter of domestic *genre* paintings, portraits, and sporting pictures focused upon fishing.” He painted over a dozen fishing scenes.

<https://thejohnsoncollection.org/junius-stearns/> and like Elliott and his Friends (1857), Princeton University



For younger students consider having them pose as if they were a part of the scene. The other students can act as “directors” and correct their positions.

Then ask how they feel in those poses.



In 2020: Junius Brutus Stearns, “A Fishing Party Off Long Island,” 1860 - interpreted by Ellie Fuelling and her roommates

Substitutes: For subs, think through your theme, in consideration of your assigned route, and find an example between stops. Other works by American artists are on view, but MANY artists are inspired by their environment to paint scenes of everyday life (genre).



Eugène-Louis Boudin, *Vacationers on the Beach at Trouville*, 1864, G321



Jozef Israëls, *Pancake Day*, c. 1885.

Or use a stop in an exhibition if it fits your theme.



Resources

From Princeton University: [Elliott and His Friends](#)

The Johnson Collection: [Junius Stearns](#)

Wikipedia: [Junius Brutus Stearns](#)

[American Realism](#) from the Art Story



When you hear the name Pablo Picasso, what images or ideas come to mind?

Pablo Picasso, Spain, 1881–1973, *Baboon and Young*, 1951, Bronze, Gift of funds from the John Cowles Foundation, 55.45, © Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Picasso in his studio, 1953, Vallauris, France. Photo Masterworks Fine Art Gallery

Francoise Gilot and Pablo Picasso, 1951. Photo Lipnitzki / Roger Viollet/Getty Images

What items did Picasso use to make the Baboon sculpture?





Picasso and family, Françoise Gilott with Paloma and Claude, circa 1953
Photo by: almrsl.com

Many everyday objects appear in this sculpture, an example of how everyday objects can be turned into a work of art.

The sculpture is an *assemblage*: Assemblage is art that is made by assembling disparate elements – often everyday objects – scavenged by the artist or bought specially (Tate.org).





Picasso and Claude, photo by Lee Miller, 1949.

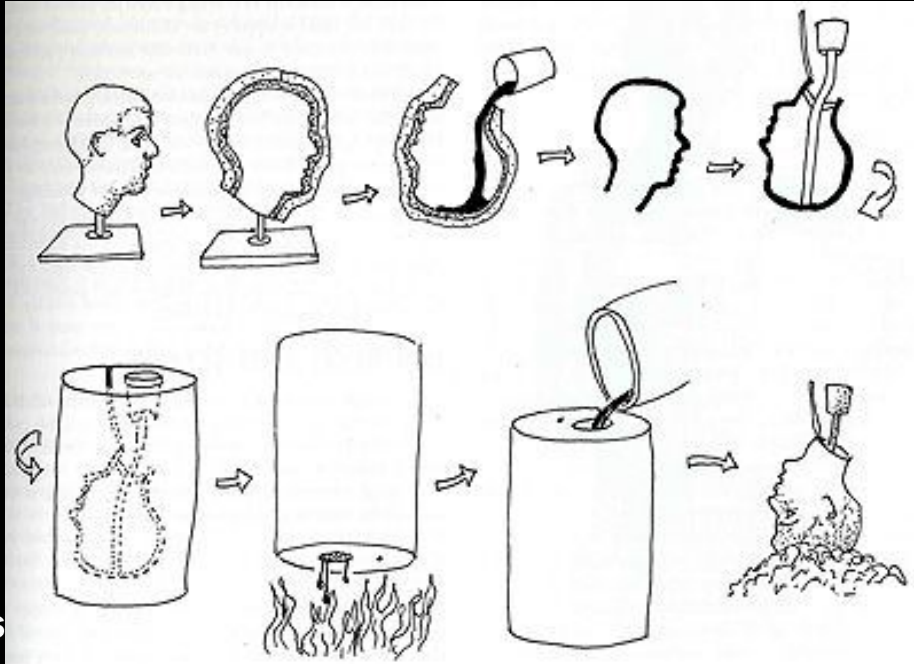


Baboon and Young, Dad and Mom! Photo, Pinterest and NBC News

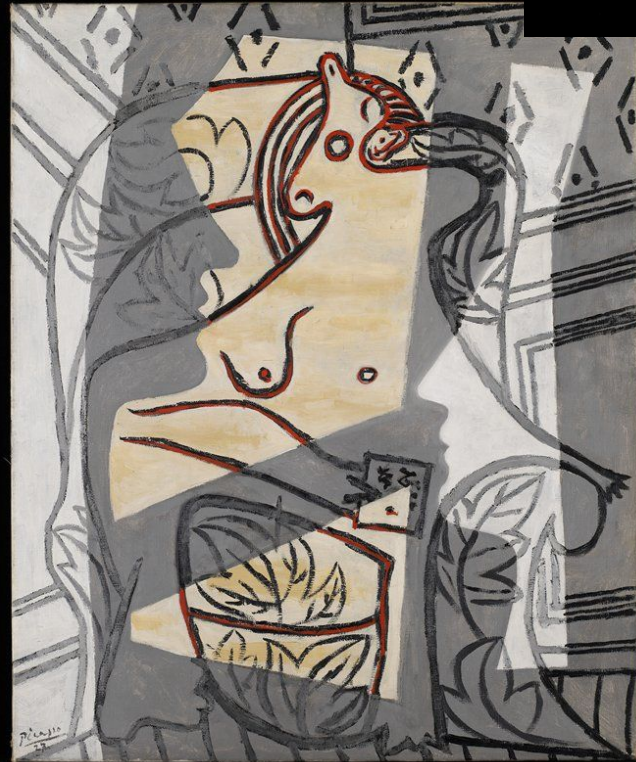
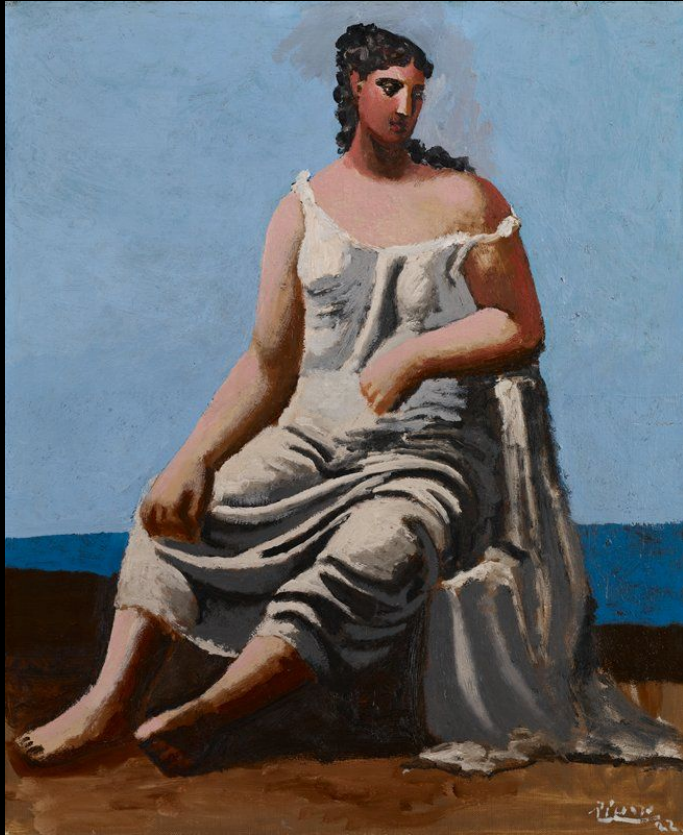
This is a bronze sculpture, cast through the lost wax process. (This is a fairly complex process to explain to kids.)

“Baboon and Young” can be seen as the pinnacle and ultimate end point of this line of work using free modelling added to found objects.”

Wikipedia



Other works by Picasso in Mia's collection



Left to right: Woman by the Sea, 1922; Woman in an Armchair, 1927; Plate, c. 1950; Après la Pique, 1959

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Associative question:

Think about someone you love and care friend or family. What kind of artwork might you be inspired to make for them? Why? (Then do a pair share.)

Movement activity: Show me how you would hold a baby. What is the same as the Baboon sculpture? What is different?

What kind of props might you use for this?

Resources

From the Musee Picasso: [Picasso Timeline](#)

From NPR: ['Life With Picasso' Stands As An Invaluable Work Of Art History](#)

From Masterworks Fine Art Gallery: [Pablo Picasso in Vallauris, a Place for Invention: Linocuts, Ceramics and Love](#)

[Baboon and Young](#), MoMA

[Baboon and Young](#), Wikipedia



William Edmondson, United States, 1874–1951, Ram, 1938–1942, Limestone, The John R. Van Derlip Fund, 2013.56

The artist William Edmondson was inspired by his faith and his community. He was a self-taught sculptor who carved found objects into simple forms with great skill.

Edmondson's parents were formerly enslaved, and he grew up in poverty in Tennessee, leaving school to help support his family.

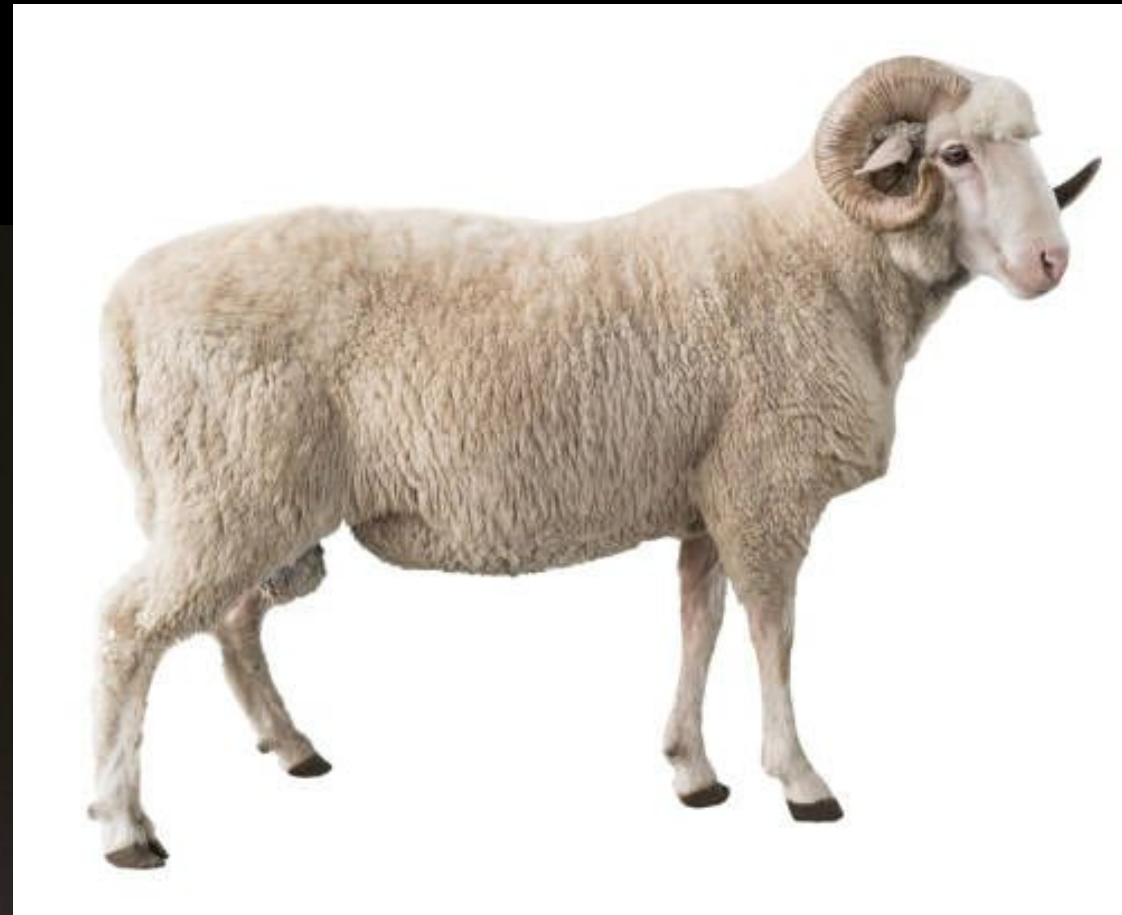
CF: Formerly enslaved parents rather than parents who were slaves.



Edmondson worked at various jobs (sharecropper, railroad worker, hospital custodian, and more) before he began sculpting in his 50s.

He was called by his God to carve tombstones, but then he expanded into carving lawn ornaments and decorative sculpture. He sculpted over 300 works within 15 years before passing away at 77.





What visual qualities make Ram a modernist sculpture?





CF: Identify William Edmondson as an African American (or Black American) artist.

“An analysis of almost 350,000 works acquired and nearly 6,000 exhibitions staged at 31 museums across the US between 2008 and 2020 reveals how drastically underrepresented female-identifying and Black American artists remain....Works by Black American artists accounted for a mere 2.2% of acquisitions and 6.3% of exhibitions” (The Art Newspaper)

William Edmondson, Wikipedia

William Edmondson was the first African American artist to have a show at the Museum of Modern Art in 1937. (Notice who is visiting the show.)



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Installation View of Edmondson's show at MoMA.

Associative question:

What kind of animal would you want to make a sculpture of? Why?

Movement activity: With your hands, on the count of 3, make a shape you see in the sculpture.

What kind of props might you use for this?

Resources

From ArtNews: [The Artist Wasn't Present: On MoMA's Fumbled First Showing of Black American Art](#)

National Gallery of Art: [William Edmondson](#)

From the Art Newspaper: [Art equity is still a long way off in US institutions, new study reveals](#)

From Yale: [William Edmondson: A Monumental Vision](#)

BREAK



Substitutes Worksheet

How People Lived. Ideas for Route 1 substitutes? Ideas for Route 3?



Descriptive question?

Associative question?

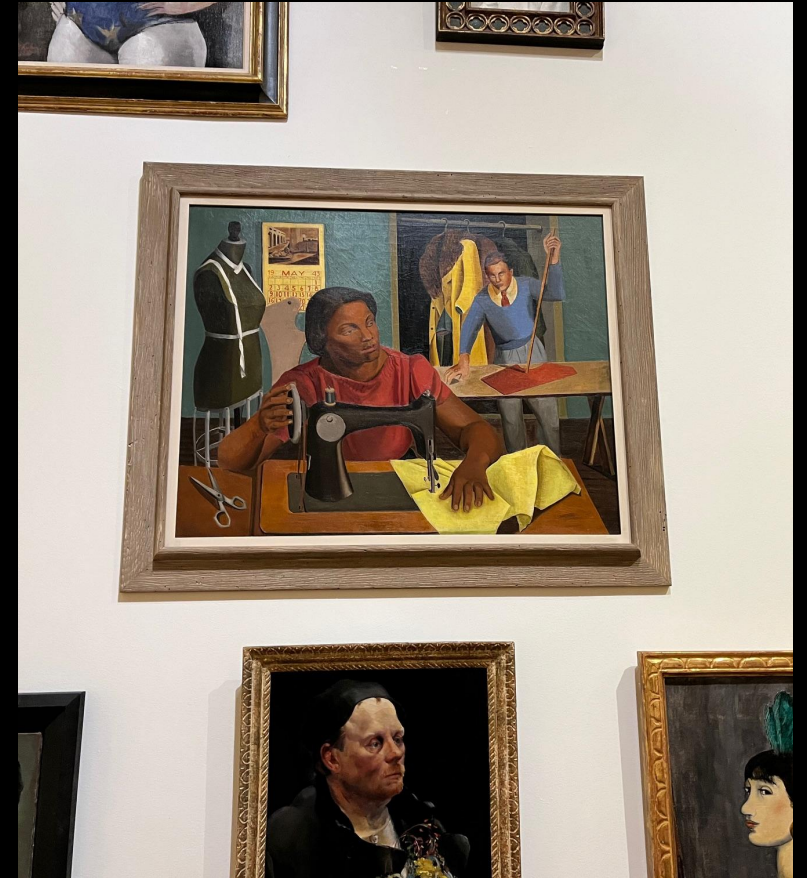
Elizabeth Catlett, Sharecropper, 1952 (How People Lived)

Substitutes Worksheet

How People Lived. Ideas for Route 1 substitutes? Ideas for Route 3?



Jacob Lawrence
1917-2000
Subway Acrobats
1943
Mixed Media
Museum Collection of American Art, 1982.2.11.1



Loans--G360 and 361

Jacob Lawrence, Subway
Acrobats, Gertrude Shibley,
Tailor Shop, 1943

Substitutes Worksheet

People and Their Environments. Ideas for Route 2 sub for Tahitian Landscape? Ideas for Route 2 sub for New York at Night?



Questions on substitutes?

Remember to check for resources on the guide website:

<https://ipevolunteers.org>

Later this week, look for the schedule for January tours, to sign up for Part 2 (Participation on a Tour) assignment

Happy
Holidays!

