

Sculpture

Figurative / Architectural / Abstract

For this workshop please consult the accompanying PowerPoint presentation. You will notice that the categories (listed above) have been broken down section by section in the order of the stated title. Each category provides brief descriptions and definitions which help to describe its character, along with illustrations of those ideas, and finally three examples including dates and titles.

Study the slides but make the presentation your own. Students will be more likely to respond positively if you can speak naturally and find a comfortable way to engage them. The PowerPoint is organized in a way in which not all the information is revealed immediately on each slide. This gives you, as the teacher, an opportunity to ask the students what they think before you continue. Also this workshop is time sensitive to it's important to try and complete the presentation within 15 minutes (20 minutes maximum) to have ample time for the activity.

Perhaps begin by asking students what they think sculpture is. Move on to explain how sculpture is in more places than they might expect, and that they will be learning to differentiate between three categories: figurative, architectural, and abstract. Within each category, try and see if you can have the students guess what a certain word means. In the "Figurative" category, it's important to stress the idea of "representation", that some sculptural material is *representing* something from nature, which you can contrast later on when you talk about "Abstraction" and how abstract art doesn't represent or imitate. When they see certain examples, like Bernini's *David*, ask if anyone knows what story *this* David comes from. See if they can see the difference of how Bernini's *David* tells a story, while Rodin's *the Cathedral* is more of a metaphor. When talking about architecture, it might be a good idea to stress that the very room in which the class is taking place in is a work of art that someone had to design and construct. How might it have been designed differently? How would we feel about that? How do the shapes of architecture differentiate themselves from the shapes of figuration? When looking at examples of architecture, you might ask them if the example they are looking at is symmetrical or not. When looking at examples of abstract sculpture ask everyone what they see. Perhaps explain that the beauty of abstraction is that we (spectators) get to choose what we want to see in it as individuals, so it can have a different meaning for every individual.

After the presentation is completed the students should have at least 30 minutes to make sculptures. This will allot them 10 minutes for each category. Pass out materials to each student and ask for someone to help you to save time. Roughly about a handful of toothpicks, and two handfuls of packing peanuts (about 50 of each) works well. It's a good idea to build sculptural examples beforehand and bring them with you to class. Show them the examples of each category so they can see how you have differentiated the forms. For "figurative" perhaps construct a person or a tree, for "architectural" maybe make a bridge or a house, etc. For the first 10 minutes have them make figurative sculpture, for the second 10 minutes have them make architecture, and for the final 10 minutes have them make abstract. Make sure to monitor the time for each sculptural category. Help students who may have questions about how to construct a particular type of form. Save yourself about 5 minutes toward the end for clean up.

Sculpture

Artwork expressed in three
dimensions

Sculpture

- Not only in museums... It's all around us.
- On the street, at the park, in our homes.



- Figurative
- Architectural
- Abstract

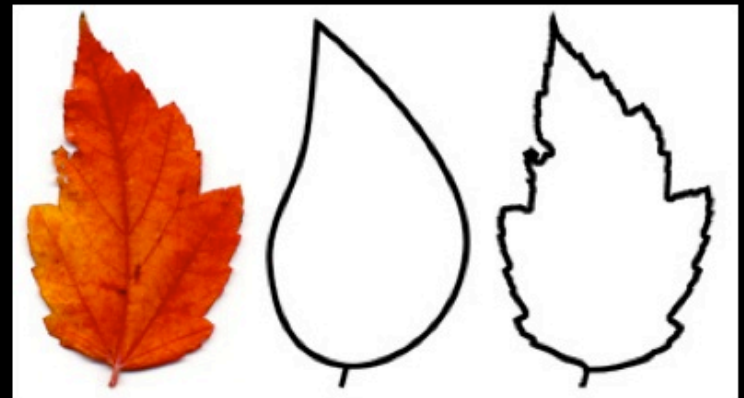
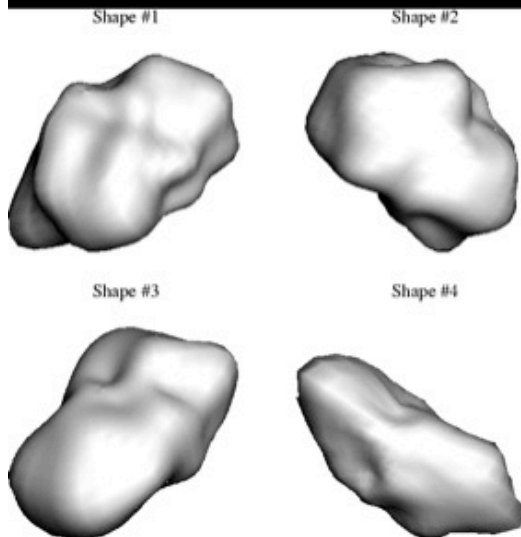
Figurative Sculpture

- Is representational in form
- Usually imitates nature (living things):
 - People, animals, plants, etc.



Figurative Sculpture

- Often uses “organic” shapes:
 - Curved lines, ellipses
 - Natural and irregular shapes



Figurative Sculpture

- Is often used to convey a message
- Narrative - to tell a story
- Metaphor - to symbolize an idea



Gianlorenzo Bernini
David 1623



Augustine Rodin
The Cathedral 1908



Claes Oldenburg
Apple Core 1992



Architecture

- The *functional* sculpture we *use* everyday:
 - Houses, skyscrapers, the room we are in now!



Architecture

- Is typically large in scale
- Has open volume (empty space)
- Often is symmetrical



Architecture

- Is usually composed of geometric shapes:
 - Pyramid, sphere, cube, cylinder, etc.



Angkor Wat
Cambodia 12th century CE



The Taj Mahal
1632-1653
India



Frank Lloyd Wright
Taliesin West 1937
Scottsdale Arizona



Abstract Sculpture

- Avoids representation
 - Doesn't try to imitate
 - It only wants to be itself



NOT A DOG

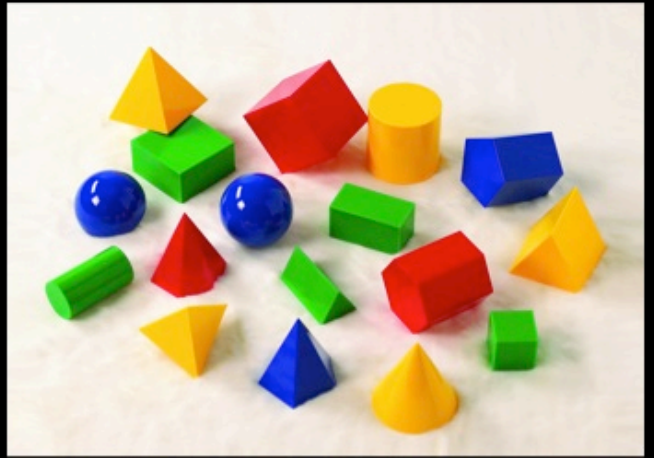
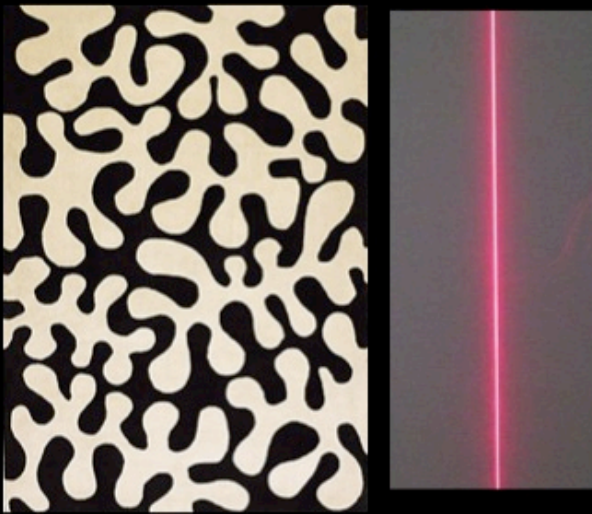


NOT A HOUSE

...IT'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT!

Abstract Sculpture

- Uses many different kinds of shapes:
 - Geometric, organic, curved lines, straight lines

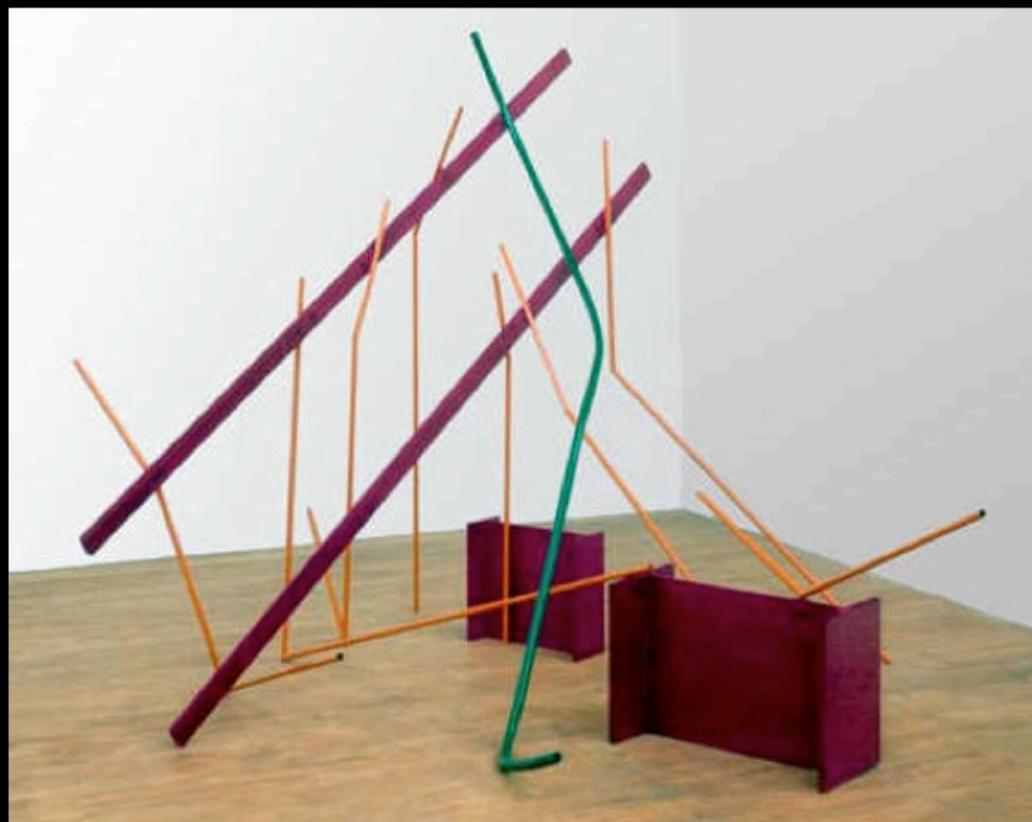


Abstract Sculpture

- Is free from rules because...
 - it comes only from the imagination... not from real life



Anthony Caro
Month of May 1963



Barbara Hepworth
Stringed Figure 1956



Peter Shire
Around The World 2013



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!!!