

Material World

Sculpture from the Arts Council Collection

Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) Glasgow

April 5 – September 26 2006
Gallery One



Teachers Notes

Material World

The Exhibition:

Material World: Sculpture from the Arts Council Collection

The Arts Council owns over 7,500 outstanding modern and contemporary artworks by high profile British artists. These works are available for loan to British museums and galleries. GoMA curator Sean McGlashan was given the opportunity to select works from this collection. The 17 sculptural works on display here – most of which have not been seen in Scotland before – were chosen because of their visual interest and powerful physical presence.

These artists have explored new methods of creating sculpture, using a range of materials. Some of these artists are interested in exploring the materials, while others show both serious and humorous elements in their work.

GoMA's grand architecture and size make it an ideal space to exhibit 3D works – you can walk among the sculptures and look at them from many angles.

This unique exhibition marks both the 60th anniversary of the Arts Council Collection, and the 10th anniversary of GoMA.

School Workshop: Making Sculptures

The accompanying workshop *Making Sculptures* is available if you would like to book it in advance.

Level: P2- P7

Fee: £25

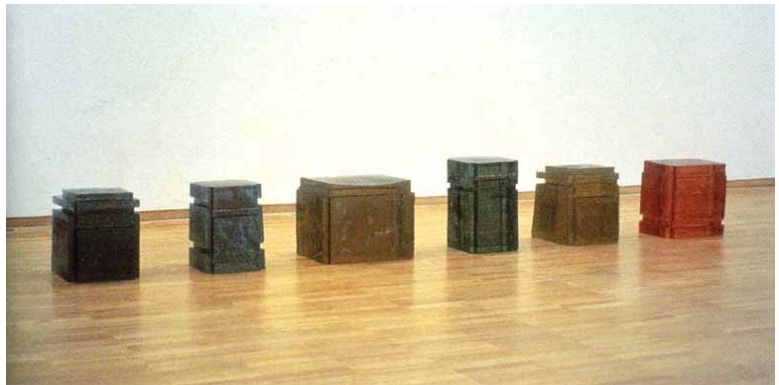
To book please telephone: 0141 565 4112/3

The workshop '**Making Sculptures**' is being offered to accompany this exhibition. The session comprises of a tour and interactive discussion of the exhibition followed by a practical workshop to discover sculptural techniques, materials and textures, and gives pupils the chance to create their own contemporary sculptures inspired by the exhibition.

Below is a sample of some of the artworks and artists included in the exhibition.



Darren Lago
This is Not a Pipe



Rachel Whiteread, *Untitled Six Spaces*



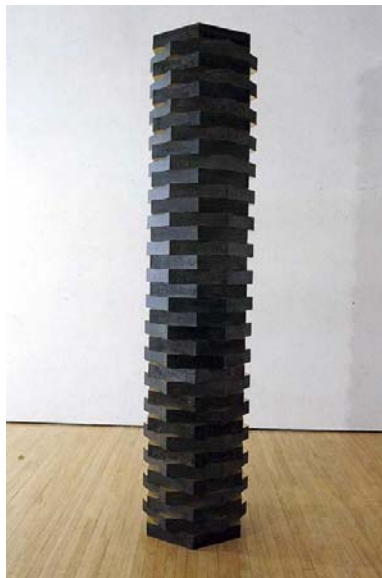
David Batchelor
I Live King's Cross and King's Cross Loves me



Lucy Wood
Can't Play, Won't Play



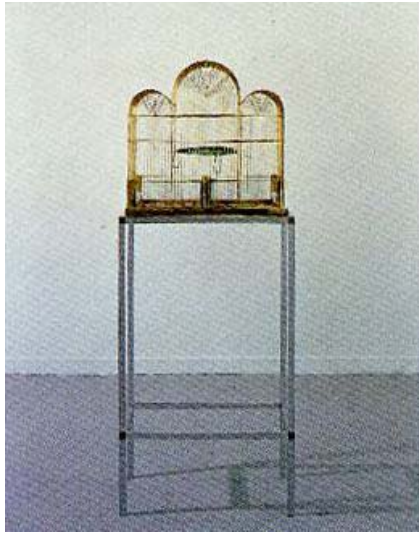
Richard Deacon
Kind of Blue



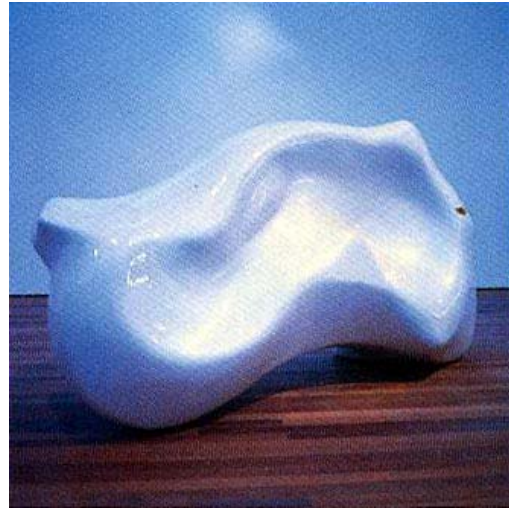
Shirazeh Houshiary
Cube of Man



Grayson Perry
Spirit Jar



Mark Wallinger
Heaven



Siobhan Hapaska
Far



Claire Barclay
Anodyne



Paul Finnegan
Untitled



Kerry Stewart
This Girl Bends

Pre-visit: Warm-Up

Before visiting the Material World exhibition we advise that you talk to your pupils to find out what they already know about sculpture and what they can expect to see at the gallery. The following questions can be used to start discussion and referred to again after the visit.

What is sculpture?
Who makes sculptures?
What does a sculpture look like?
What can a sculpture be made of?
How is a sculpture made?
How big or small can a sculpture be?
Where do you find sculptures?
Have you ever made a sculpture?

Please discuss the **'no touch'** rule. Sculptures must not be touched, played or climbed on.

Q. *Why can't we touch art?*

A. Touching artwork causes dirt and natural oils from a person's hand to damage the artwork.

Sculpture – What is it?

Sculpture can be defined as any three-dimensional design occupying a particular space, having length, width and height. It has been used as a means of human expression since prehistoric times.

All the sculptures in this exhibition are free standing sculptures; they vary greatly in their materials, scale, technique and form.

Sculptures differ from paintings as they are not hung on the wall, but you can walk all the way around them. Trying this can be a good test for younger pupils to identify if it is a sculpture or not.

Materials:

Traditional sculpture materials such as marble, wood and stone are still widely used today. However, advancements in technology and changes have broadened the range of materials sculptors can choose to use, including glass and resin, aluminum, and many other synthetic materials.

Sculptors are constantly searching for new ways to make art and for new materials to make it with.

In the Gallery

Questions to ask when exploring sculptures in the gallery

Basic level

What shapes can you see?

What colour is it?

How many parts does it have?

How does the sculpture stand up / balance?

How would the material feel to touch?

What is the sculpture called?

Why do you think the artist has chosen this title?

What materials have been used to make this sculpture? (the label will help you)

Can you walk around it?

What does it remind you of?

Do you like it? What do you like / dislike about it?

More challenging

How do you know this is a sculpture?

Why would the artist choose these materials?

What properties do these materials have?

How does the materials affect the surface texture?

How does this sculpture make you feel?

How many people do you think it took to make?

How is it displayed – on the floor? On a plinth? Behind a barrier? How does this affect the way you look at the sculpture?

How large is the sculpture? Compare it to a household object; does its scale affect the way you look at it?

Is it abstract or figurative?

How many materials can you find in sculptures in this gallery?

Are they natural or man-made materials?

Artists often carefully choose the materials they use to help communicate their ideas.

What is significant about the materials chosen by this artist? Do they represent anything?

How do you move around the sculpture when viewing it? What do you have to do to see the entire sculpture?

Select two sculptures in the gallery and compare and contrast their qualities. Looking at their materials, construction, scale and subject matter.

Things to think about:

- Materials and how they are used
- Space within the object
- Scale
- Visual elements of form and shape
- Distortion and abstraction
- Movement
- Texture/ surface
- Context
- Tension
- Abstraction/Distortion
- Colour
- Materials (found vs man-made)
- Environment

- Craft versus mass production
- Consumerism/factories/over consumption
- Experience (of the actual art work/ subject represented)
- Art vs Science
- Shock factor
- Negative space
- Casting techniques

Back in the Classroom

Curriculum Links

- Explore 3-dimensional activities
- Use given materials to solve a task
- Produce a solution to a design problem
- Solve a simple problem or task in modelling
- Model and construct from observed sources and imagination.

Activities:



'This is not a ...!'

Materials: a selection of different papers, plastic, fabric, wire etc.

Task: choose any object from your everyday life (eg a mug, spoon, pencil, comb). Think about the materials it is made of and why. Explore the important role materials and colours play in an artwork. Now construct this object out of different materials to make it functionless.



Construction Art

Materials: Straws, wooden sticks, clay.

Task: Using straws and wooden sticks construct two 3D small-scale models of artworks you have seen in the exhibition. Explore the role of balance in sculptures and the range of ways weight can be balanced out. Choose one model and now try to recreate it in a larger scale from clay.



Junk Art

Materials: Newspaper, bottles, cartons, tape, straws, foil.

Task: Inspired by the exhibition, make a sculpture from objects that you would normally throw away. Look at the properties of materials and explore different ways they can be joined together.

Now think of a title and write a label for your sculpture; think of how a title can change the way we look at an artwork.

Useful Words:

Abstract Art: art that does not depict recognizable scenes of objects.

Balance: to arrange so that one set of elements equals another.

Cast / Casting: is a process by which a material is introduced into a mold while it is liquid, allowed to solidify in the shape inside the mold, and then removed producing a fabricated object.

Contemporary Art: art that is made today, it relates to our time.

Curator: a person who selects artwork for display and arranges exhibitions.

Found objects: existing objects that an artist exhibits as art.

Gallery: a place where artwork is shown.

Installation Art: an installation involves the artist using a space within the gallery to make a single work. It usually engages the different senses and is temporary.

Medium: material that is used to make a piece of art.

Minimal Art: an artwork that has been reduced to basic shapes, an attempt to make art in its simplest, purest form.

Mould: a mould is a hollowed-out block that is filled with a liquid like plastic, glass or metal. The liquid hardens or sets inside the mould, adopting its shape.

Pattern: lines, colour or shapes organized and repeated in a planned way.

Sculptor: someone who produces sculptural artwork.

Sculpture: a three dimensional work of art (having length, width and height); an artwork created using sculptural techniques.

Texture: the tactile quality of the surface.

2-Dimensional: objects that are flat (or have only one side) like a painting, drawing or print.

3-Dimensional: objects that have more than one side, take up space, having height, width and depth.

Publications:

General Sculpture books:

Sculpture Since 1945, Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1998 ISBN 0092842056.

Penelope Curtis, **Sculpture in 20th Century Britain**, Volumes I & II.

Rosalind Krauss, **Passages in Modern Sculpture**, Cambridge, MIT Press, 1981.

Alex Potts, **The Sculptural Imagination: Figurative, Modernist and Minimalist**, Yale University Press, ISBN 0300088019.

William Tucker, **The Language of Sculpture**, London: Thames & Hudson, 1974, ISBN 05000490163.

Relevant Sculpture Websites:

Glasgow Sculpture Studios

<http://www.glasgowsculpturestudios.org/index2.htm>

Arts Council

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/regions/index.php>

Scottish Sculpture Workshop

<http://www.ssw.org.uk/welcome.html>

Sculpture Scotland

<http://www.sculpture-scotland.co.uk/>

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

http://www.ysp.co.uk/ix001_flash.htm

New Art Centre Sculpture Park & Gallery, Roche Court

<http://www.sculpture.uk.com/>

Modern Sculpture .com

<http://www.modernsculpture.com/sculpture.htm>

Steven Gontarski

www.stevengontarski.com

Damien Hirst

www.damienhirst.com

<http://www.artchive.com/artchive/H/hirst.html>

Lucy Wood

<http://www.lucywood.net/>

Richard Deacon

www.richarddeacon.net

Grayson Perry

<http://www.tate.org.uk/britain/turnerprize/2003/perry.htm>

Michael Landy

<http://www.tate.org.uk/britain/exhibitions/landy/>

David Batchelor

http://www.saatchi-gallery.co.uk/artists/david_batchelor.htm