A Focus on Art of America

Grade Level: Kindergarten, Fourth, and Fifth

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“Sculpture” A composition made by modeling, carving, assembling/joining, or casting materials into a 3-dimensional form (clay, wood, stone, metal, ice, sand, ivory, wax plaster, etc...)

“3D”/3-dimensional” A figure or form that has length, width, and height.

“Sculptor” A artist who creates sculpture

Discussion of Vocabulary

Sculpture & “3D” definitions
Kindergarten Sculpture: Totem Poles
Ellen Neel, *Northwest Coast Native American Totem Pole*

Cedar wood plank
3” Totem Pole sculpture
Resource books
Vocabulary

**Sculpture: Carving wood: “Totem Poles”**
Sculpture: Carving stone: The Lincoln Memorial
Sculpture: Carving...

Mount Rushmore

- Photographs of various views Mt. Rushmore
- Sculptor: Gutzon Borglum
Sculpture: Assemblage:
The Statue of Liberty
• **“Stable”** a construction or sculpture that is stationary; fixed in position

• **“Mobile”** a construction or sculpture, consisting of movable parts that are usually suspended from thin wires and can be set in motion, as by air currents; first named by Calder’s friend, Marcel Duchamp

• **“Kinetic Art”** from Greek *kinesis*; movement

**Alexander Calder:**

**Mobiles**
Fourth Grade: Portraits and Figure Studies
• Born in Saunderstown, Rhode Island, Dec. 3, 1755
• Father immigrant from Scotland
• George Washington portrait was considered the most famous ‘American Portrait’ of all time.
• Painted 110 portraits of George Washington and several of Martha Washington
• Born in Germany, 1816
• Immigrated to Philadelphia at age 9.
• Studied in Düsseldorf, Germany
• The most important concept to Leutze was the “spirit” of the historical event.
• He made artistic choices not based on actual fact.
• Researched the information he was presenting but shown in a very dramatic, somewhat theatrical style.
• Used actual American models for men, with one man over 6 ft. tall, who was in fact the model for George Washington, himself.
• Subjects in painting are ‘life-size.’
John Singleton Copley

- Born in Boston, Massachusetts on July 3, 1738.
- Immigrated from Ireland.
- Believed to be one of the finest painters of ‘Colonial American art’: Portraits.
- Thorough knowledge of his subjects.
- Used ‘clues’ to reveal subject’s personality traits.
“Silhouette” a representation of the outlines of an object filled in with black or some other uniform color; to show against a light background.
“Landscape” An expanse of scenery that can be seen in a single view; A picture depicting an expanse of scenery.

“Silhouette” a representation of the outlines of an object filled in with black or some other uniform color; to show against a light background

“Genre” a style of painting in which everyday subjects are treated realistically

“Composite” made up of distinct parts or elements

“Idealized” to make ideal; represent in an ideal form or character; exalt to an ideal perfection or excellence
Born: Long Island in Setauket, November 26, 1807

Portable studio carried across the Long Island countryside, sketching rural life of neighbors, capturing moments of dancing, farming, fiddling, reading, talking, or playing.

One of the first artists to paint African American subjects in a positive, non-stereotyped way.

*Eel Spearing at Setucket, 1865*
Commissioned: George W. Strong, N.Y. lawyer who grew up in Long Island
• Born in Solingen, Germany, January 7, 1830. Immigrated at age 2.
• Studied in Dusseldorf, Germany after meeting Worthington Whittredge & Emmanuel Leutze.
• Returned to America: ‘transcontinental’ travel by train, stagecoach, and horseback to the West as part of a U.S. government survey team.
• Sketching as he traveled. Worked from ‘real life’ sketches but exaggerating objects in works.
• (Romanticized) “details of the scenery were correct, scene as a whole often is false”
• Some critics objected to his exaggeration however many feel that when the American people looked at his works they saw them as a “garden of Eden blessed by God, untouched by Civil war, holding a promise of new beginnings”
• Born: Bolton, Lancashire, England, February 1, 1801
• Immigrated age 17 to Pennsylvania
• Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
• Created hundreds of sketches as he hiked through the Catskill Mountains
• Leader of Hudson River School
• View of Mt. Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, After a Thunderstorm, (The Oxbow), 1836

Thomas Cole
Common Core Connections and Forever Creative

Who?
What?
When?
Where?
Why?
How?
ART…

“Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder”