Classroom of Creativity

Phantom Sculpture

Activity Pack

Made with:
Ascension Dance | Polly Brant
Jess Roberts | Anna Lee | MaryAnn Galgey
Phantom Sculpture

Phantom Sculpture is an art show, about sculptures. What is a sculpture? It is a three-dimensional artwork that takes up space, it isn’t flat on a page or a screen.

You could reach out and touch a sculpture, but we ask people not to touch our art works, as they are delicate and may break!

Some of the sculptures in our show are sixty years old, and some of them are new. They have been made for the show.

In this booklet you will talk, make, look, feel, move and think about the sculptures from our art show.

Try this one out below!

Talk!

What is the oldest thing in your home? Have you ever made a sculpture before? What things can you use to make sculptures at school and at home?

There are some words that are underlined in this booklet which might be hard to read. Give them a try and ask a teacher or parent if you are not sure what it means.
Looking Closely

**Look!**

What **textures** and **materials** can you find in the artworks in Phantom Sculpture?

Are they:

- Soft?
- Rough?
- Clay?
- Metal?

How have the artworks been placed in the show?

Are they:

- Hanging?
- On a plinth?
- On a wall?

**Think!**

Pick an artwork, why do you think the artist has chosen to **display** it in a certain way?

Everyday objects sometimes **inspire** artists. Can you see an artwork that reminds you of something you could find at home?

---

Rebecca Ackroyd, pieces from the series 'Singed Lids,' 2019
(Steel, epoxy resin, plaster, paraffin wax)

Jonathan Baldock, 'Warm Inside xi,' 2021
(Willow, steel, cotton, wool, ceramic, latex)

Phoebe Collings-James, ‘The Infidel,’ 2023
(Ceramic)

Joseph Buckley, 'Crystal Landlord,' 2023
(Plastic, formica, MDF)
Now you’re going to make something completely new, can you use the following actions to re-form your piece of paper:

**Feel!**
Take a plain piece of A4 paper and hold it in the palm of your hands. **Explore** how it moves, turn it in your hand without folding it. Watch how it bends and flexes. Take 2 minutes to **manipulate** it.

**Make!**
Now you’re going to make something completely new, can you use the following actions to **re-form** your piece of paper:

- **Fold**
- **Push**
- **Pull**
- **Rip**
- **Scrunch**

**Move!**
We are now going to take those 5 words and see if we can use them to make movements!

- **Push** Can you push a body part such as an arm or leg?
- **Pull** Can you use your muscles to pull away?
- **Fold** Can you fold your arms or legs? Maybe fold your whole body?
- **Scrunch** Can you close everything up as if you are being scrunched?
- **Rip** Ripping is moving two parts in different directions, what two body parts can you move in different directions?

**Talk!**
After 5 minutes of forming, what have you created?
Does it look the same or different to what it did before?
Does it have the same textures?
Does it look like something else?
Which actions did you use the most?
You may want to **decorate** your piece and hang it up!

Repeat each movement and remember them. Now perform each movement back-to-back so that they are in a **sequence**.

Congratulations, you have just made a dance about working with paper!
Pick an object. Look at the space around and in-between an object. This is called Negative space.

Sculptures both take up space and are surrounded by it. The negative space is where we view, look through and walk around the sculptures.

How would you draw this space?

You could close your eyes and feel around the object to help you with this. How do you think the space around these sculptures would feel?

Chose an object or one of the sculptures in this booklet. Instead of drawing the object, can you draw the negative space around it?

You will need:
- Paper
- Felt Tips
- Crayons
Everyday materials can be used by artists to make artwork. Have a go at reusing and recycling materials that usually get thrown away to make your own sculpture.

**Everyday Sculptures**

Make!

You will need:
- Glue
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- Materials from home or school to reuse and recycle

Think!

What size will you make your sculpture? Will it fit on a table, or will it need to go on the floor?

Here are some materials you might want to use:

- Cardboard boxes
- Egg boxes
- Milk cartons
- Packaging
**Shadow and Form**

**Make!**

Using the playdoh, think about the words below to make something new!

You will need:
- Playdoh
- Sticks
- Torches

Roll:
- Can you help them to do a **circular** movement?

Press:
- Can you (**carefully**) press them into a smaller shape?

Stretch:
- Can you stretch them so that they are wider than they were before?

Prod:
- Can you poke or move something? (Hands are great for this action!)

Squeeze:
- Can you squeeze them into a final form?

Make sure that you both remember these shapes.

Now dim the lights and use the torch to see what shadow each of the shapes make.

Move around the person to make the light focus on different areas and create new shadows. If you have limited space, the person making the shape can move instead.

**Talk!**

What shape shadows appear on the wall?

Do they change as you turn your artwork?
What happens when you move the torch closer or further away?

**Move!**

Working with a partner, can you use the action words to help them hold an interesting shape with their body?

Roll: Can you help them to do a **circular** movement?
Press: Can you (**carefully**) press them into a smaller shape?
Stretch: Can you stretch them so that they are wider than they were before?
Prod: Can you poke or move something? (Hands are great for this action!)
Squeeze: Can you squeeze them into a final form?

Olivia Box, ‘Off White,’ 2020 (Steel, plastic funnel, chicken wire, paper, UV resistant PVA, plaster, paint, wheels)
The activities in this book have been made by artists Polly Brant and Ascension Dance.

Our teachers, Jessica Roberts, Anna Lee and MaryAnn Galgey have supported us in making this resource accessible and engaging for Reception and Key Stage 1 students, as part of the Classroom of Creativity programme, here at Warwick Arts Centre.

Designed by Sharonjit Sutton.

Warwick Arts Centre
University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL
Box Office: +44 (0) 24 7649 6000
warwickartscentre.co.uk

Stay in touch

@warwickarts
@warwickarts
@warwickartscentre

Warwick Arts Centre welcomes visits from schools year-round.

We have a broad offer, including theatre shows, gallery visits, sculpture trails and music workshops. Get in touch with the Creative Learning Team to discuss your needs or sign up to our mailing list to get the most up to date offers and news.

creativelearning@warwick.ac.uk