

# THE RENEE & CHAIM GROSS FOUNDATION



## Creative Expression in Sculpture

**Grade level:** Grades 2-5

**Time estimate:** 15-20 minutes for slideshow and discussion, 30-45 minutes for optional classroom activities

### **Overview and Learning Objectives:**

Students will explore multiple ways of creating sculpture. Students will use critical thinking skills to compare and contrast the materials, methods, and styles of several sculptural works, with a focus on sculptures made by women. By discussing sculpture in different media, including wood, metal, and found objects, students will reflect on the many ways to express an idea and the many ways to be an artist.

### **Classroom activities:**

#### **Found object collages** (Art, STEM, adaptable K-5):

Design and build a found object collage within a shoebox using recycled materials from home and/or school such as cardboard, milk cartons, bottle tops, and packaging material. Secure materials together with glue, duct tape, masking tape, paper clips, and rubber bands, experimenting and adjusting as necessary. If time and budget allow, an adult can spray paint the final pieces a single color. Display and discuss.

Alternative: Create a found object collage in a shoebox that is a self-portrait, using objects that represent you. Written explanations can also accompany the self-portraits. Display and discuss why the various objects were chosen and what they reveal about what is important and special to you.

#### **Looking: Ten Times Two** (Critical thinking, grades 2-5):

Using one of the sculptures in this slideshow, practice the Looking: Ten Times Two Artful Thinking routine. First, look at the sculpture for 30 seconds, letting your eyes wander. Next, write down 10 words or phrases that come to mind as you look at the sculpture. Take some time to share some of your observations with the class. Next, look back at the sculpture and add ten additional words or phrases. Reflect on what new ideas or observations you had. For

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more information about the Artful Thinking routines, developed at Project Zero at Harvard, please visit: [pzartfulthinking.org](http://pzartfulthinking.org).

**Additive and Subtractive Sculptures** (Art, for grades 3-5):

Explore the differences between additive and subtractive sculptures by experimenting with each process. Using air dry clay, such as Model Magic, create a portrait head using the additive process. Next, try the subtractive process with inexpensive white soap and tools such as a vegetable peeler, plastic knife, spoon, pencil, and scissors. Draw the outline of a portrait head on both sides of the soap and carve away parts of the soap to create it. Discuss the challenges of each method.

**Extensions:**

Read about the lives and works of sculptors such as:

- *A Life Made by Hand: The Story of Ruth Asawa* by Andrea D’Aquino introduces children to Ruth Asawa and her incredible woven sculptures.
- *Cloth Lullaby: The Woven Life of Louise Bourgeois* by Amy Novesky is a beautiful, poetic introduction to the French artist who worked in wood, steel, stone, and cast rubber.
- *The Amazing Collection of Joey Cornell* by Candace Fleming introduces young readers to artist Joseph Cornell, who loved to collect items of all kinds and assemble them in beautiful and unexpected ways to create works of art.

Watch Chaim Gross carve a portrait sculpture of Renee out of wood in the video, “From Tree Trunk to Head:” <https://vimeo.com/159503777>