

## Art at Home Activity 4

### Sculpture Poems

#### The Challenge

Write poems or short stories about three sculptures. Use the activities below to come up with ideas.

#### The Inspiration

We've chosen three sculptures for you to write about. Two are from our current exhibition, *Paloma Varga Weisz: Bumped Body*, and one is an early piece by our founder Henry Moore. Choose one, or write about all three!

All artwork has a story behind it. Sometimes the artist will tell us what their work means, but often they want us to make up our own minds. Art is subjective - it means something different to all of us - so there are no wrong answers, and we can all find our own meanings in it.

People have been writing poetry about art for thousands of years. "Ekphrasis" is an Ancient Greek word for a poem written about a piece of art. In an ekphrastic poem, the writer describes what they see in the painting or sculpture, and what they think is happening.

#### Get writing!

Look carefully at the image of the sculpture, and use these activities to come up with ideas for your piece.

Do a 'free write' for each of the questions below. In a free write, you should write down as many things as you can think of in a short time. Don't think too much, or worry about what you're writing. It doesn't need to rhyme, or even make sense! Spend about a minute on each question (you can time yourself if you like).

1. What can you see? Write down a list of as many words or phrases as you can to describe the shapes, forms, objects, textures and materials in the piece.
2. How does it make you feel? Stare at the image and write down whatever words or phrases pop into your head.
3. What does it remind you of? Start by writing 'it's like a...' then complete the sentence as many times as you can.
4. What's it about? Write down as many words or phrases as you can that describe what YOU think this sculpture is about. Remember it doesn't need to make sense, or go together - come up with lots of different ideas!

You should now have lots written down. Read through what you've written and turn these ideas into a poem or story. If you're writing a poem, remember that they don't always need to rhyme! It doesn't need to be long, but try to write at least 6 lines.

Share your poems or stories with us online (or ask an adult to help you) at:

@henrymooreinstitute on Instagram

@HMILeeds on Twitter

Facebook.com/henrymooreinstitute

#### Need more inspiration?

Anne Sexton on Van Gogh's *The Starry Night*:  
"The town does not exist  
except where one black-haired tree slips  
up like a drowned woman into the hot sky.  
The town is silent. The night boils with eleven stars."

Find more examples of poems about art here:  
[artsandculture.google.com/story/7-poems-about-famous-artworks](https://artsandculture.google.com/story/7-poems-about-famous-artworks)



Paloma Varga Weisz, *Still Life*, 2017. Limewood, glass, metal, fabric.  
Image credit: Stefan Hostettler



Paloma Varga Weisz, *Schrank/Cabinet*, 2018. Wood, glass, mixed media.  
Image credit: Stefan Hostettler



Henry Moore, *Stringed Figure*, 1939. Lead, yellow string.