

# Three Dimensional Media: Sculpture and Installation, Crafts, Architecture

**Three Dimensional:**

**Involves height, width, and depth.**

# Chapter Eleven

## Sculpture and Installation

How and why do viewers respond differently to a three-dimensional work than to a two-dimensional work?

Louise Bourgeois. *Maman*, 1999



Van Gogh. *Starry Night*.



# Freestanding Sculpture

**Freestanding Sculpture:** A type of sculpture that is surrounded on all sides by space. Also called sculpture in-the-round.

**MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI**

*David*, 1504. 17'

Carrara Marble

Florence, Galleria dell'Accademia

<https://youtu.be/-oXAekrYytA>



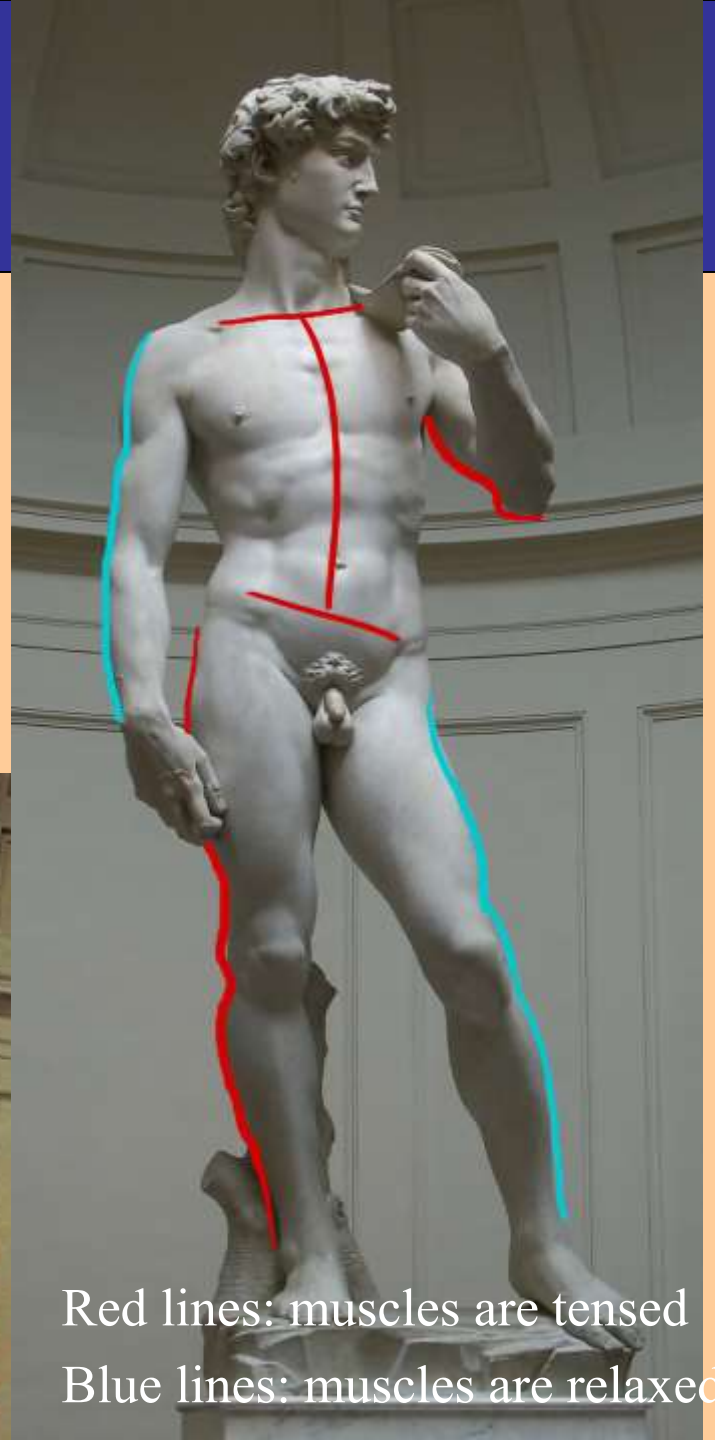


Michelangelo saw the body as a reflection of the beauty of the soul.

Michelangelo. *David*.  
1500-4. Height 18'. Marble.  
David weighs in at more than 6  
tons or 12,478 pounds

## Contrapposto:

The disposition of the human figure in which one part is turned in opposition to another part (usually hips and legs one way, shoulders and chest another), creating a counterpositioning of the body about its central axis.



Red lines: muscles are tensed  
Blue lines: muscles are relaxed



**Egyptian:**  
*Mentuemhet.*  
650 BCE.  
Granite, approx.  
4'5" high.



**Greek:**  
Polykleitos, *Doryphoros.* ca.  
450–440 BCE, 6' 11" high  
(Roman copy)



**Medieval:**  
*Old Testament  
kings and queens*  
Chartres  
Cathedral, France,  
ca. 1145–1155.



**Renaissance:** Michelangelo,  
*David*, 1504. 17'  
Carrara Marble

# Relief

## **Relief:**

**In sculpture, modeled forms projecting from a background of which they are part. The degree of relief is designated high, low or sunken.**

## High Relief:

Sculptural relief in which the modeled forms project from the background by at least half their depth.

# High Relief



*Durga Fighting the Buffalo Demon,*

Mahishamardini Cave, Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu, India. (In Hinduism, Durga is one of the forms of the goddess Devi or Shakti, and the wife of Shiva.)





# Low Relief

**Low Relief - Sculptural relief that projects very little from the background**



## *The Churning of the Sea of Milk*

from the Eastern gallery of Angkor Wat, Cambodia. 12<sup>th</sup> c. Sandstone

Gods and Demons pull the serpent-king Vasuki for one thousand years around Mount *Mandara*, resting on the shell of a giant turtle. Vishnu and Indra keep the mountain stable during its rotation. From the churn the celestial dancers are born, and the nectar of immortality is recovered.



**Coin with portrait of  
Julius Caesar. 44 BCE.  
Silver. Diameter  $\frac{3}{4}$ "**

# Sunken Relief

**Hypostyle hall, temple of Amen-Re,**

Karnak, Egypt, Dynasty XIX, ca.

1290–1224 BCE.



**Hypostyle hall, temple of Amen-Re,**

Karnak, Egypt, Dynasty XIX, ca.

1290–1224 BCE.



# Methods of Sculpture:

## 1. Additive

- Modeling
- Assembling

## 2. Subtractive

- Carving

## 3. Casting

# Modeling

## Modeling:

1. In sculpture, the creation of form by manipulating a pliable material such as clay.
2. In two-dimensional art, simulating the effects of light and shadow in order to portray optically convincing masses.

*Figurine of a Voluptuous Lady*  
Maya, Mesoamerica,  
700–900 C.E.  
Ceramic with traces  
of pigment, 8 3/4"  
high. The Art  
Museum, Princeton  
University.





**Terra-cotta army** surrounding the tomb-mound of the first emperor of Qin Dynasty (pronounced “chin”). 211-206 BCE. Over 6,000 life-size soldiers, horses and chariots in three pits.

<https://youtu.be/RsUE-ZtcUFg>











**Primitivism:** Term used to describe the fascination of early modern European artists with what was then called “primitive” art – including tribal art from Africa, the South Pacific and Indonesia, as well as prehistoric and very early European art, and European folk art. It aspires to recreate "primitive" experience.

Primitivism has often been critiqued for reproducing the racist stereotypes about non-European peoples used by Europeans to justify colonial conquest.



Paul Gauguin,  
*Self Portrait*  
1903

Paul Gauguin, *Oviri (Tahitian for savage or wild)* 1894,  
partially glazed ceramics, 75 × 19  
× 27 cm (29.5 × 7.5 × 10.6  
in), Musée d'Orsay, Paris



# Assembling

Assembling involves  
constructing a whole from  
individual parts.

**Raoul Hausmann** (a leader of  
Berlin Dada), *Mechanical Head*  
(*Spirit of Our Age*). 1919.



**Raoul Hausmann, *Mechanical Head (Spirit of Our Age)*. 1919.**  
Musée National d'Art Moderne,  
Paris

Found objects include:

hairdresser's wig-making dummy,  
crocodile wallet, ruler, pocket watch  
mechanism and case, bronze  
segment of old camera, typewriter  
cylinder, segment of measuring  
tape, collapsible cup, the number  
"22," nails, and bolt



Hausmann said that the average German "has no more capabilities than those which chance has glued on the outside of his skull; his brain remains empty".

**Raoul Hausmann,**  
*Mechanical Head (Spirit of Our Age)*. 1919. Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris





**Petah Coyne, *Untitled #1111*  
(*Little Ed's Daughter Margaret*).  
11' high 2003-2004.**

Wax, fiberglass cast statuary, velvet, satin, ribbon, thread, steel understructure, PVC pipe and fittings, tree branches, fabricated tree branches, chickenwire fencing, wire, silk flowers, pearl-headed hat pins, tassels, feathers, pumps, irrigation tubing, water, hair, spray paint and acrylic paint





**Petah Coyne, *Untitled #1111*  
(*Little Ed's Daughter Margaret*).**  
11' high 2003-2004.

Details

# Carving

The subtractive method begins with a block of solid material which will be carved away

*Venus of Willendorf*

from Willendorf

Austria, ca. 28,000–25,000 BCE

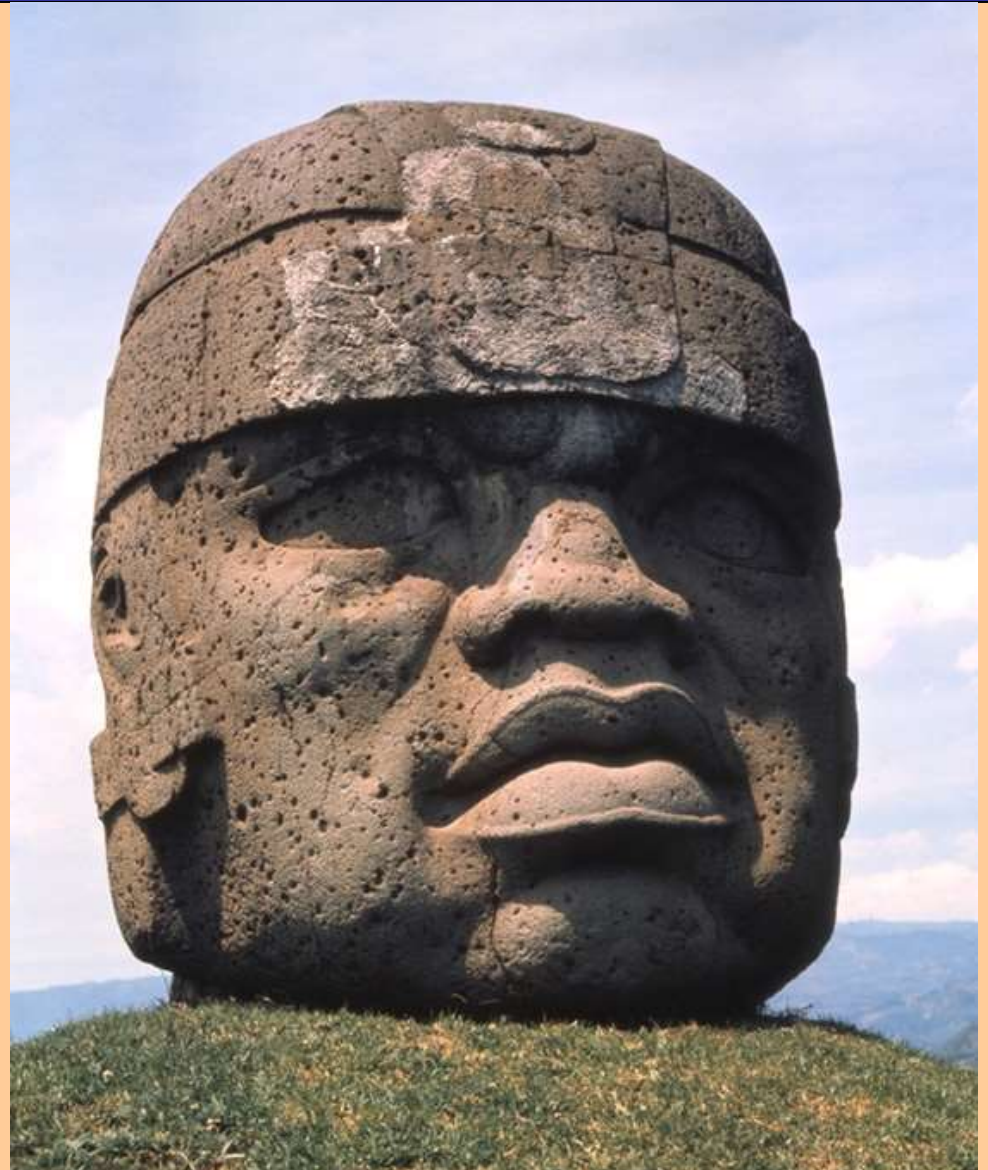
Limestone, approx. 4 1/4" high



***Colossal Olmec head*** From San Lorenzo, Veracruz, Mexico, c. 1000 B.C.E. Basalt  
70 7/8" high. Museo de Veracruz, Jalapa Mexico.



The Olmec were an ancient Pre-Columbian civilization living in south-central Mexico. 17 colossal heads were discovered so far.



**Olowe of Ise, *Bowl with  
Figures*, Early 20th century.  
Wood, pigment, 25 1/2" high.  
National Museum of African  
Art, Smithsonian Institution.**



# Casting

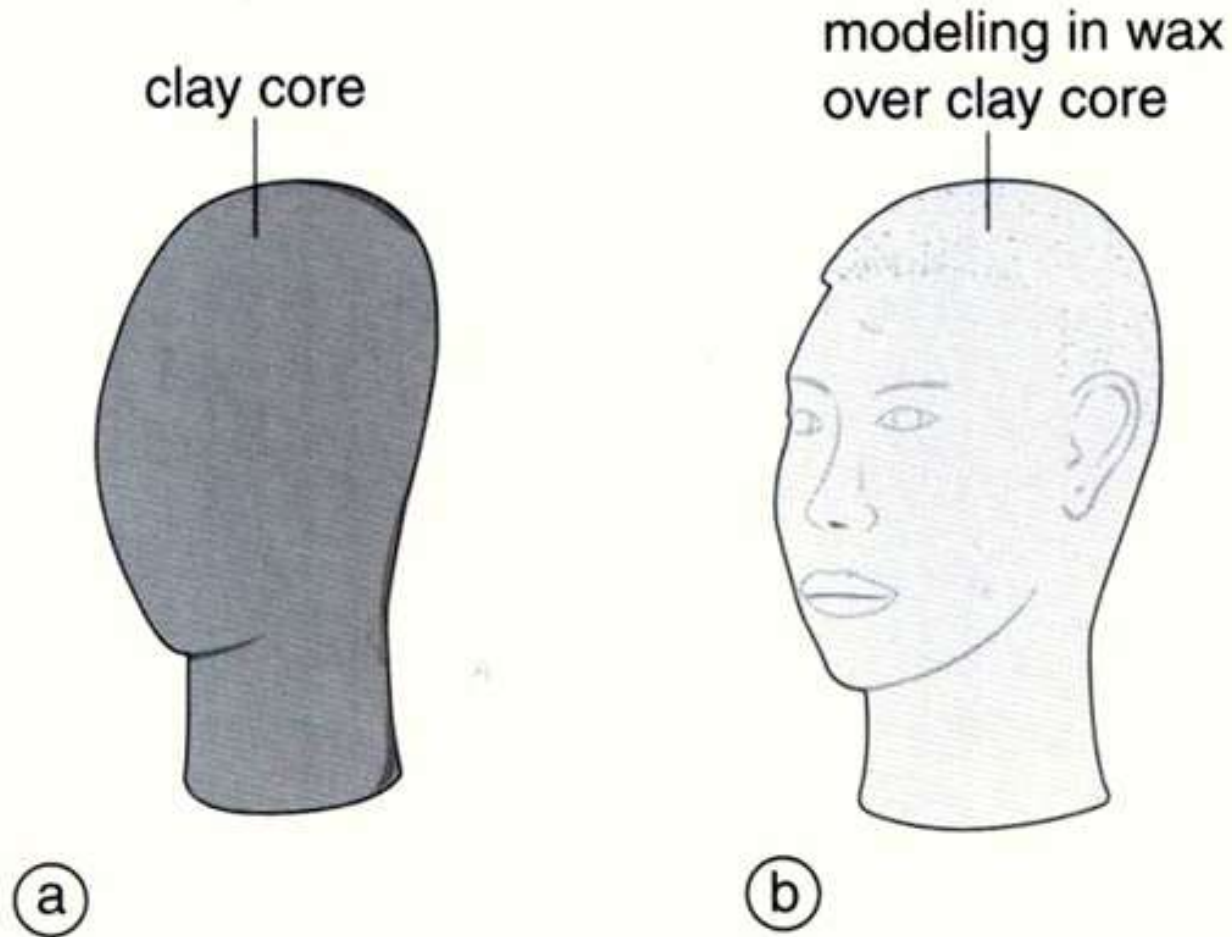
## **Casting:**

The process of making a sculpture or other object by pouring a liquid into a mold, letting it harden, and then releasing it. Common materials used for casting include bronze, plaster, clay, and synthetic resins.

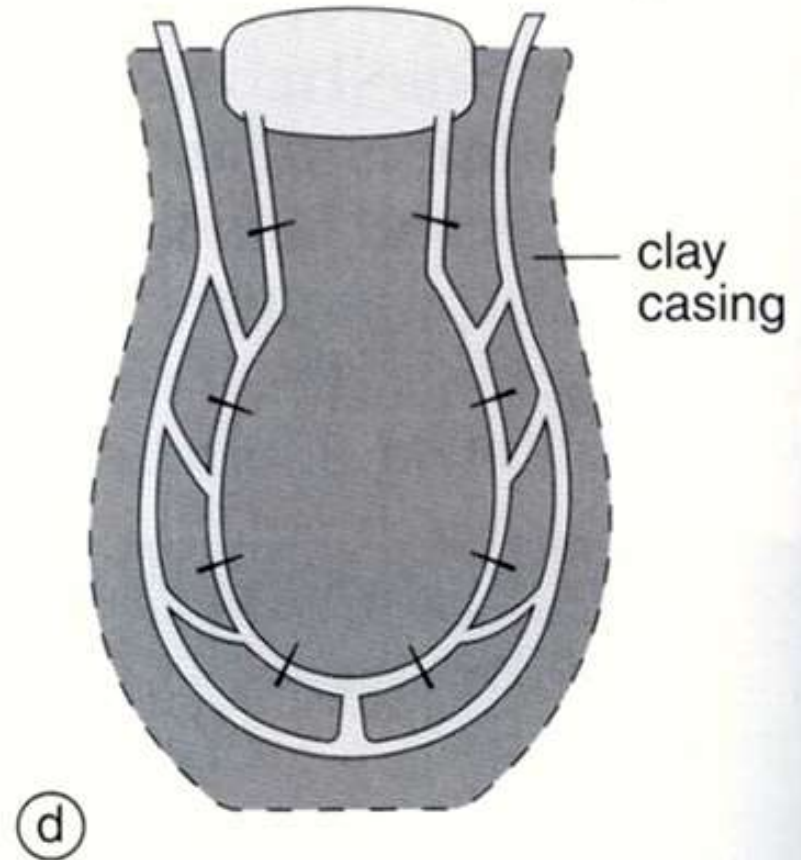
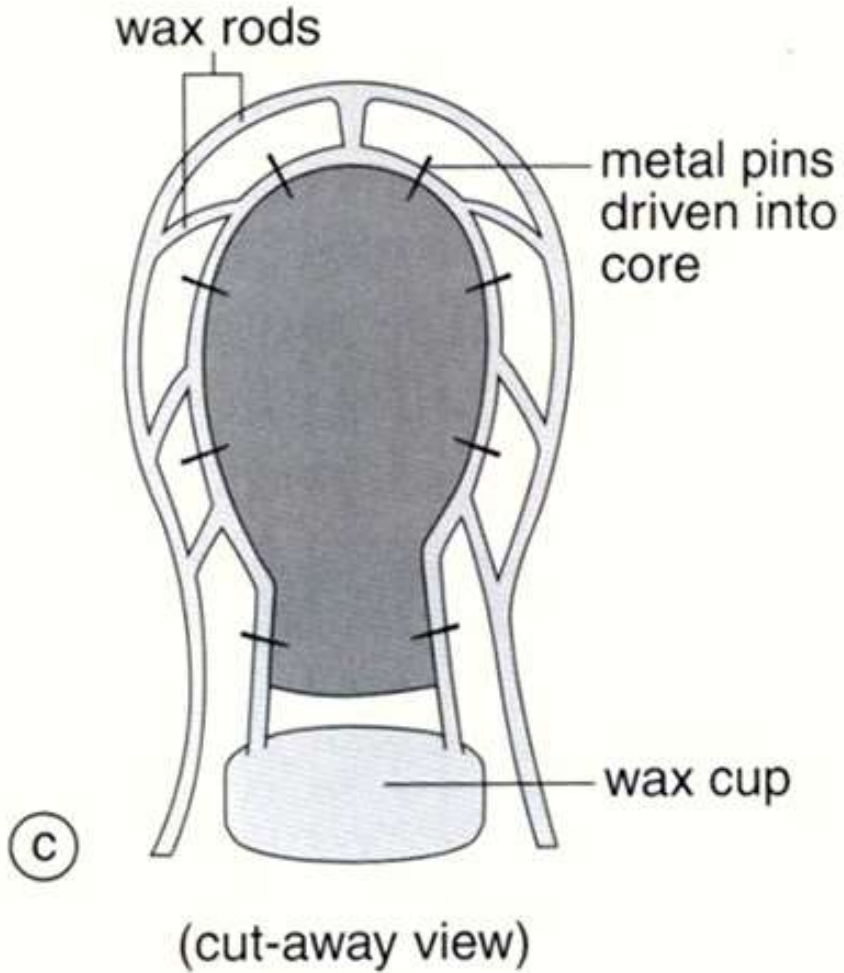
# Casting: Lost-Wax Process

(the most common method for casting metal)

1. The sculptor makes a model in plaster or clay that is then coated with wax

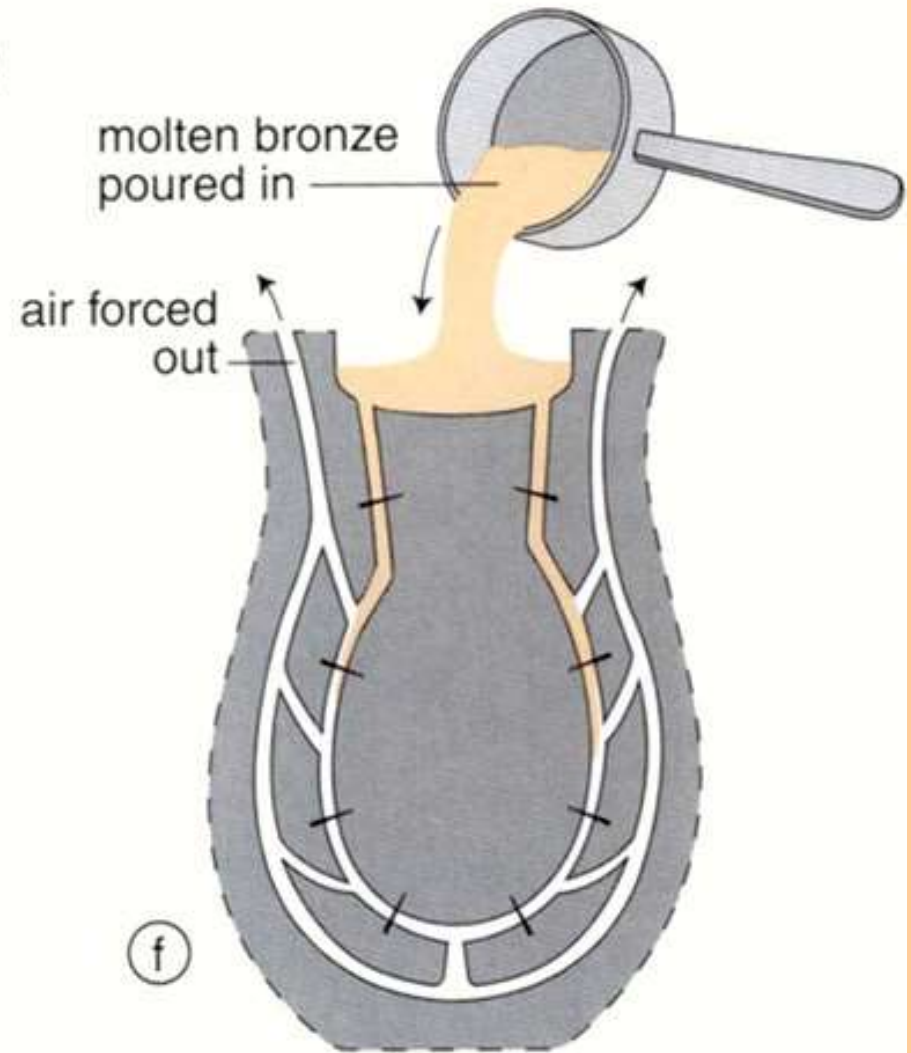
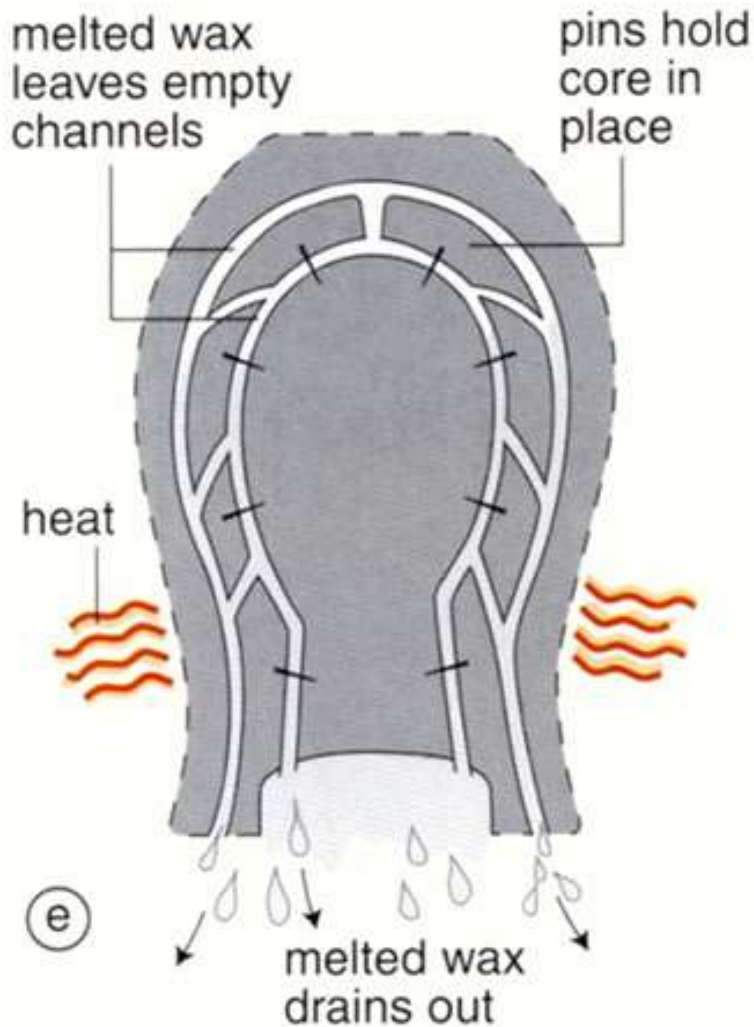


2. The model is then covered with a perforated plaster or clay mold.





3. When heated, the mold will "lose" the wax as it runs out of the holes in the plaster. Molten lead is then poured into the space formerly occupied by the wax.



4. After the work cools, the sculptor breaks the mold, removes the plaster core, and files or polishes the metal product.



# **How to make bronze sculptures - lost wax bronze casting**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVe3VeQfyzw>



**Head of an Akkadian ruler, Nineveh, ca. 2300-2200 BC. copper, 30.5 cm. Iraq Museum, Baghdad.**

**Warrior, from the sea off Riace, Italy, ca. 460–450 BCE. Bronze, approx. 6' 6" high. Archaeological Museum, Reggio Calabria.**



Reconstruction  
of the warrior



The eyeballs are formed of calcite, the teeth are made with silver; the lips and nipples are made of copper.

**Warrior, from the sea off Riace, Italy, ca. 460–450 BCE. Bronze, approx. 6' 6" high. Archaeological Museum, Reggio Calabria.**





Apollonius, *Boxer at Rest*, c. 100 B.C.E., bronze, Hellenistic Period (Palazzo Massimo, Museo Nazionale Romano, Rome) <https://youtu.be/FvsSPJoJB3k>

*The Bodhisattva  
Avalokiteshvara (the  
bodhisattva of  
compassion also known  
as “the Lotus Holder”)*

From Kurkihar, Bihar,  
Central India. Pala  
Dynasty, 12th century.  
Gilt bronze, 10" high.  
Patna Museum, Patna



**Gilded:** Covered with a thin layer of gold.





## **Discussion Question**

Find in your book one example for each method:

1. Modeling
2. Assembling
3. Carving
4. Casting

Explain how the mediums and methods used are essential for the meaning of each work.

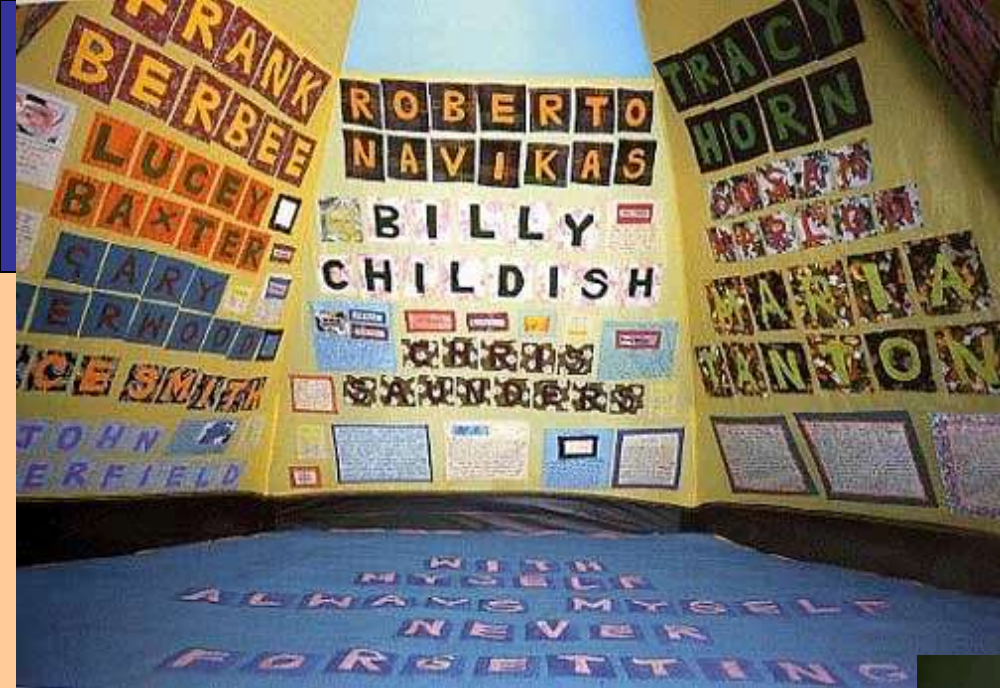
# Working with Time and Place

**Installation:** A space presented as a work of art to be entered, explored, experienced and reflected upon. More broadly, the placing of a work of art in a specific location, usually for a limited time



**Pepón Osorio.** *En la barbería no se llora*  
(*No crying allowed in the barber shop*),  
1994 Installation: Barber's chairs, VCR,  
video monitors, mixed media collage.





Tracey Emin . *Everyone I Have Ever Slept With* 1963–1995 (1995)



# “Site-Specific” Art



**Richard Serra. *Tilted Arc***

1981. Cor-Ten steel, 12'X120'x2 1/5”

Federal Plaza, New York,  
Collection General Services  
Administration (destroyed 1989)

## Site-specific:

Artwork that was conceived for display in particular place, and which generally can only be fully understood in the context of that place.





In the mid 1970s the Art-in-Architecture program commissioned a work of public art to grace the open space in front of the Jacob Javits Federal Building.



**Richard Serra. *Tilted Arc***

1981. Cor-Ten steel, 12' X120' x 2 1/5"

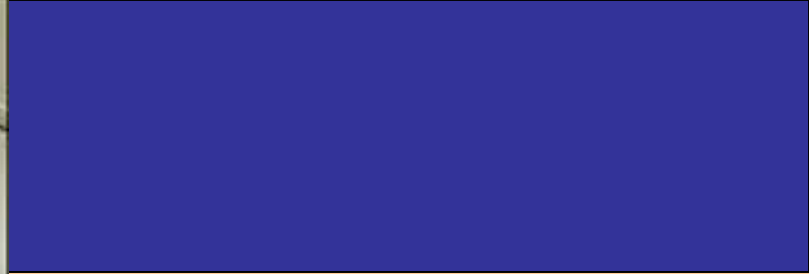
Federal Plaza, New York,  
Collection General Services  
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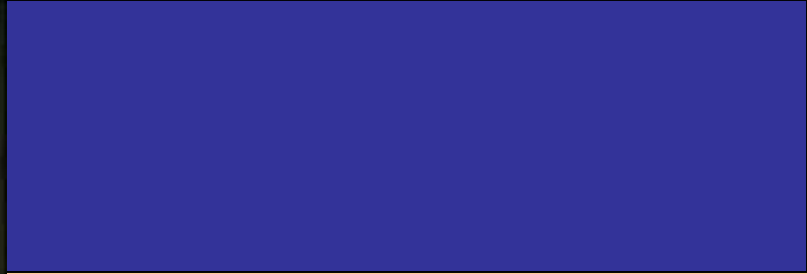


Dismantling and Destruction - March 15, 1989



**Richard Serra, *The Matter of Time*. 2005. Steel. Guggenheim Museum. Bilbao, Spain,**





**Earthwork (Land-Art):** A work of art created at, for and from a natural site, for example by reshaping the earth or rearranging natural elements found there.



**Robert Smithson. *Spiral Jetty*. 1970.**

Rock, salt crystals, earth, algae; coil length 1500'. Great Salt Lake, Utah

<https://youtu.be/vrbNsHs7ptE>



**Robert Smithson. *Spiral Jetty*. 1970.**

Rock, salt crystals, earth, algae; coil length 1500'. Great Salt Lake, Utah



**Christo (b. 1935, Bulgaria) and  
Jeanne- Claude (1935, Morocco -  
2009)**

Environmental sculptors noted for their  
controversial outdoor sculptures that  
often involved monumental displays of  
fabrics and plastics.

<https://youtu.be/nBVpgN4JAsE> 2:00



***Running Fence***

Sonoma and Marin Counties, California 1972-76



**Christo and Jeanne-  
Claude: *Surrounded  
Islands*, 603,850 square  
meters of pink  
polypropylene.**

Biscayne Bay, Greater  
Miami, Florida, 1980-83



**Christo and Jeanne-Claude. *The Gates*, Central Park,**

**New York City, February 2005**

**7,503 gates, 16 feet tall**

**1,067,330 square feet of nylon fabric**







**Christo and Jeanne-Claude. *The Gates*, Central Park,  
New York City, February 2005  
7,503 gates, 16 feet tall  
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