

Investigation Goals-

- Choose 2 of the artworks to critique- **One Oaxacan sculpture & another piece of your choice!**
- You will compare the pieces to one another answering the questions below
- You should use this investigation to inspire the creation of your own Fantastic Animal
- Answer all questions neatly & thoughtfully in your Process Journal

Part I- Choose your Sculptures-

To find more colorful images... Go to Moodle- Grade 7 Art-Giandalia
(scroll down to the Fantastic Animal Unit & click on the Investigation)

- _____ Find two Sculptures that you would like to critique (Choose one Oaxacan & another of your choice!)
- _____ Sketch Two of the artworks into your workbook (add color/pattern!)
- _____ List all of the artist information you can find under each work (Artist Name, *Title*, Medium, Date, Place)
- _____ MLA cite the images from the website you found them
- _____ What category of art would you place this sculpture into? (Folk art? Fine Art? Street Art? etc.)
- _____ Write about WHY the piece inspires you! Why are you interested in this sculpture?

Part II- Describe each sculpture-

- _____ When and Where did the artist create it?
- _____ Is it a sculpture in the round? Relief Sculpture?
- _____ What medium is it made out of?
- _____ What is the subject matter? (Animal? Human? etc?)
- _____ Explain what you see- Imagine that you are describing this sculpture to someone who cannot see it. Explain the small details!

Analyze each Sculpture-

Where and **How** has the artist included each of the **Elements of Art? Be specific!**

- _____ Form- (What basic forms can you break this piece down into? Cube? Sphere? Cylinder? Cone? Etc.)
- _____ Space- (How did this artist create interesting negative & positive space from all angles?)
- _____ Texture- (Does this sculpture include actual or visual texture? What kind? (Rough, smooth, fluffy, etc.)
- _____ Color scheme - (Explain the use of color. How are the colors organized?)
- _____ Pattern- (Pattern is a repetition of the elements. Has the artist used random pattern or planned pattern?)

Sculpting Techniques-

- _____ What techniques do you think the artist has used to create this piece? * **use your sculpture vocabulary!**
- For example:** additive, subtraction or reduction, found objects, planes, armature etc.

Interpret the artwork-

- _____ What do you think is the purpose or meaning of these artworks?
- _____ Why did the artist create it? Is there a meaning or a purpose for the creation?
- _____ What mood/feeling do you get from looking at the work?
- _____ What do you think is the story behind this work?
- _____ Why was this sculpture an important creation in the time and place it was made?

Judge the artwork-

- _____ Do you think that this is a good piece of artwork? Why or Why not?

Comparisons- (create a Venn Diagram)

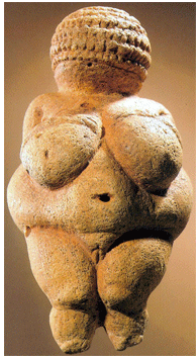
- _____ Compare and contrast the use of form & space in each piece in each piece.
- _____ Compare and contrast the meaning, purpose or MOOD behind these two pieces.

Your Inspiration-

- _____ How could you use these artworks to inspire ideas for your own creation?

*See next 4 pages for artists and work! □

Sculpture through different time periods-

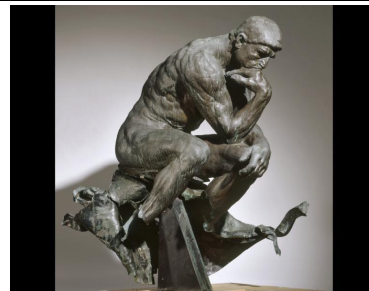


Venus of Willendorf



Sumerian Worshipper Statuettes

Myron's *Discus Thrower*



Rodin's *The Thinker*



Claus Oldenburg's *Two Cheeseburgers*



Louise Nevelson, *Sky Cathedral*

Recycled Sculpture and Found Object Sculpture

Joshua Harris- Inflatable Street Art-At first glance it may look like a load of old trash left on New York's subway grates. But as a train roars past underneath the vents, the air causes this 'garbage' to inflate and reveal a 15ft-high minotaur, or a polar bear and even the Loch Ness Monster.

These inflatable bag sculptures are the work of U.S. street artist Joshua Allen Harris. He uses ordinary black garbage and shopping bags to make his beautiful pieces.

He then distributes them around New York City, tying them down to subway grates with tape in the hope the strong gusts from the trains will be strong enough to inflate his characters and animate them.

'I guess it's inflatable street art,' Mr Harris told New York Magazine. 'A sculpture that works on the street, that inflates with subway and exhaust air.

'Part of the magic of it is that it looks like trash on the street and then it comes to life.'

Mr Harris' first work was a white polar bear.



Deborah Butterfield (Found Object Sculpture)- Deborah Kay Butterfield is an American sculptor. She divides her time between a ranch in Bozeman, Montana and studio space in Hawaii. She is known for her sculptures of horses made from found objects, like metal, and especially pieces of wood.



Left- Artist- Deborah Butterfield, Title: *Palma*, Scrap Metal

Right- Artist: Deborah Butterfield, Title: *Happy Medium*, Wood, 2011

About Oaxacan Woodcarving Sculptures and Alebrijes-

Oaxacan Wood Carvings are a magnificent expression of Mexican Folk Art. The talented carvers of **Oaxaca** create, entirely by hand, wonderful sculptures made from copal wood and their ingenious shapes with amazing patterns and colors have captivated collectors world wide.

These remarkable wood carvings are also known as **alebrijes** for their similarity with the fantastic paper creatures made in Mexico City. For centuries the inhabitants of the **Valley of Oaxaca** and in particular the **Zapotec** civilization carved splendid wooden sculptures that are now in museums or adorning colonial churches.

As the modern legend goes, it was **Manuel Jimenez** who popularized this craft. He is considered the great master of **Oaxaca** wood carvings, and it was his work that was first noticed by traders and collectors of Folk Art. His success inspired others to follow in his foot steps.

Nowadays there are many talented master wood carvers in **Oaxaca**, particularly in threea villages: **Arrazola**, **San Martin Tilcajete** and **La Union**. Using the soft wood of the **copal** tree abundant in the area, they carve with machetes and knives, beautiful figures that they later paint in brightly colored designs.

Through their never-ending creativity and imagination, wood is transformed into mermaids, wild animals, fantastic creatures, masks, Virgins, devils, **Santos** and angels! It is fascinating to see how each artist has developed a unique style. Their work is being recognized by collectors, and is being presented in galleries and museums through out the United States and other countries.

Credit- Oaxacan Wood Carvings. <http://www.oaxacafinecarvings.com/>. Accessed September 24, 2012



Artist: Manuel Jimenez

Title: *Purple Nahual with Horns*

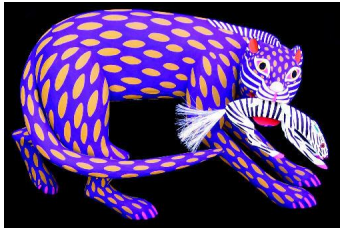


Figure
Manuel Jimenez, *Blue Jaguar*



Artist- Angelico Jimenez (son of Manuel Jimenez), Title- *Antelope*



Artist- Pedro Linares, Title- *Alebrije* , paper mache sculpture, Date- 1986

Current Location- The children’s Museum of Indianapolis. Indianapolis, Indiana
Originally From- Mexico City, Mexico

Criterion A: USING KNOWLEDGE (8 maximum)	
7-8	The student: (i) Demonstrates excellent knowledge and understanding of standard elements of sculpture, including consistent use of appropriate language (elements and principles), concepts and processes. (ii) Demonstrates an excellent understanding of the role of the sculpture in relation to time and place.
5-6	The student: (i) Demonstrates substantial knowledge and understanding of standard elements of sculpture, and regularly uses appropriate language (elements and principles), concepts and processes. (ii) Demonstrates a substantial understanding of the role of the sculpture in relation to time and place.
3-4	The student: (i) Demonstrates adequate knowledge and understanding of standard elements of sculpture including some appropriate language (elements and principles), concepts and processes. (ii) Demonstrates an adequate understanding of the role of the sculpture in relation to time and place.
1-2	The student: (i) Demonstrates limited knowledge and understanding of standard elements of sculpture. (ii) Demonstrates a limited understanding of the role of the sculpture in relation to time and place.