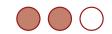
Landmarks Guide for Older Children





Magdalena Abakanowicz

American, born in Austria, 1890-1965

Figure on a Trunk 2000 Bronze

Subject: Stage

Activity: Put on a performance without

using any words or sounds

Materials: None

Vocabulary: Figure, state, symbolism,

performance



Introduction

Magdalena Abakanowicz is from Poland. She was raised and lived there throughout World War II. This piece is a bronze casting of a headless figure. Abakanowicz makes many sculptures like this one. Sometimes there is just one figure, and sometimes there are many figures in a large group. This figure is standing before us on a platform that is like a stage. When someone is on a stage, they are usually there to tell the audience something, either through speaking or through their performance.



Questions

The figure stands on a stage of sorts. What might it be telling us?

Why do you think the artist chose to make this figure without a head?

Can you think of some things that the head and face are symbolic of?



Activity

Designate an area that will be your stage. Put on a show for a friend or family. Try to act out feelings and experiences using only your body, but not your voice. Most movies and performances we see incorporate a lot of sound and music to set the mood. How can you set the mood and communicate a message without relying on sound? Can you use all the areas of your stage?

Magdalena Abakanowicz, continued





(ABC) Vocabulary

Figure - A human shape

Stage - A platform used for performances

Symbolism - Representing an idea or concept through images

Performance - The act of presenting something (like a play or music) to an audience for entertainment

