

Landmarks Guide For Younger Children



Anita Weschler
American, 1914-2001

Victory Ball
1951
Cast stone

Subject: Figurative abstraction

Activity: Create living sculptures.

Materials: Camera

Vocabulary: Describe, pose, sculpture

i Introduction

This sculpture shows people having a party to celebrate the end of a war. The artist, Anita Weschler, uses facial expressions, body language, and the poses of the figures to tell us what we are looking at.

? Questions

Look at the people in this **sculpture**. How are they standing? Are they close together or far apart?

What words would you use to **describe** the people in this sculpture?

How is a sculpture similar to a photograph? How is it different?

& Activity

- Gather 3 friends or family members.
- Pick one person to be the photographer. Everyone else will be the “sculptures.”
- Have the sculptures try their best to pose like the people in *Victory Ball*.
- Take a picture of the scene.
- Switch roles and try new poses.

Anita Weschler, continued



BTW

Victory Ball is a cast stone sculpture. This means Anita Weschler didn't carve it from a block of stone. She made a mold and poured a mixture of cement and stone into it to make the sculpture.



Look Again / Observations

Look closely at the figures. Do you notice anything new about them now?



Vocabulary

Describe – To tell what something looks, feels, or sounds like.

Pose – The way a person stands or holds their body.

Sculpture – Art that is three-dimensional and can be seen from all sides.



Artists with Related Works

Magdalena Abakanowicz, *Figure on a Trunk*, 2000

Koren Der Harootian, *Prometheus and Vulture*, 1948

Ann Hamilton, *ONE EVERYONE*, 2017

Landmarks Guide For Older Children



Anita Weschler
American, 1914-2001

Victory Ball
1951
Cast stone

Subject: Figurative abstraction

Activity: Create a personal story.

Materials: Pencil and paper

Vocabulary: Biography, victory

i Introduction

Victory Ball tells the story of people coming together to celebrate the end of World War II. Their hands are raised with joy, but the heavy stone and stiff poses also remind us of the loss suffered during the war.

? Questions

What do you think the relationship is between the people in the sculpture? Are they friends, family, or strangers?

If you didn't know the title, what would you think the people were doing?

& Activity

- Choose one figure in the sculpture to focus on.
- Give this person a name and write it down on your paper.
- Now imagine their story: Why are they at this celebration? What might they have been doing earlier that day? Who might they be dancing or standing with?
- Write a short **biography** about your character using the ideas you imagined.

Anita Weschler, continued



BTW

Victory Ball is a cast stone sculpture. This means Anita Weschler didn't carve it from a block of stone. She made a mold and poured a mixture of cement and stone into it to make the sculpture.



Look Again / Observations

Look more closely at the texture of the piece. Is it different or similar to the texture of carved stone sculptures?



Vocabulary

Biography – A story about a person's life.

Victory – Winning or succeeding after a struggle or challenge.



Artists with Related Works

Magdalena Abakanowicz, *Figure on a Trunk*, 2000

Koren Der Harootian, *Prometheus and Vulture*, 1948

Ann Hamilton, *ONE EVERYONE*, 2017

Landmarks Guide For Adolescents



Anita Weschler
American, 1914-2001

Victory Ball
1951
Cast stone

Subject: Figurative abstraction

Activity: Create a stylistic sketch

Materials: Pencil, paper, photograph of a person or a group of people

Vocabulary: Figurative abstraction, primitivism

i Introduction

In the 1930s and 1940s, Anita Weschler created a series of sculptures that were influenced by **Primitivism**. *Victory Ball* is a good example of this style. The figures are blocky and simplified, and their poses show the influence of artists like Paul Gauguin and Pablo Picasso. Even though the sculpture represents a celebration, the blocky forms and stiff poses of the figures make the scene feel serious and restrained rather than joyful.

? Questions

What do you notice about the style of this sculpture? Do the figures look realistic or more abstract?

How does Anita Weschler represent the human body in this sculpture? What parts of the figures are simplified or exaggerated?

Look closely at the shapes and edges of the figures. What kinds of lines do you notice? How do they affect the overall feeling of the sculpture?

Anita Weschler, continued



Activity

- Choose a photograph to use as a reference. Try to find one that includes at least one person.
- Using pencil and paper, create a sketch of the photograph, but don't make it look completely realistic.
- Instead, reinterpret the subject in a primitivist style. For example, you might simplify the shapes, exaggerate certain features, or focus on strong lines and angles—similar to how Weschler simplified the figures in *Victory Ball*.



BTW

Victory Ball is a cast stone sculpture, meaning that Anita Weschler did not carve the piece out of a section of stone. Rather, she created a mold, then poured a cement and crushed stone mixture into it.



Look Again / Observations

Look more closely at the texture of the piece. Is it different or similar to the texture of carved stone sculptures?



Vocabulary

Figurative abstraction – An art style that combines depiction of the human form with shapes or representations that do not exist within reality.

Primitivism – An art style popular in the 1930s and 40s, it emphasized taking inspiration from the styles of ancient and indigenous works of art.



Artists with Related Works

Magdalena Abakanowicz, *Figure on a Trunk*, 2000

Koren Der Harootian, *Prometheus and Vulture*, 1948

Ann Hamilton, *ONE EVERYONE*, 2017