

Landmarks Guide for Adolescents



Bryan Hunt
American, born 1947

Amphora
1982
Bronze

Subject: Transforming everyday objects

Activity: Create a clay sculpture that depicts an everyday object

Materials: An object of student's choice, modeling clay

Vocabulary: Aviation, conceptually based, consciousness, dynamic energy, topography

Introduction

Born in Indiana, Bryan Hunt attended the University of South Florida with the intention of becoming an architect but soon found that he was more intrigued by painting. From 1967 to 1968 he worked as a technical assistant at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral. This brief interlude sparked his interest in aviation and technology. Hunt made a series of sculptures based on aviation and then on topography in his *Lakes* and *Waterfalls* series. The dynamic energy of these sculptures carried over into what would become Hunt's main interest in the 1980s: motifs from classical Greek art and culture.

An amphora is a type of ceramic vessel used in the ancient Mediterranean for transportation and storage of oil, wine, and other commodities. High quality, painted amphorae were given as prizes for athletic competitions and also served funerary purposes in ancient Greece.

Questions

Why do you think Hunt made *Amphora* in this shape instead of rounded like an actual amphora?

How is the material that Hunt used for *Amphora* different from the material used for the classical amphora?

How do you think Hunt's interest in lakes and waterfalls might have influenced this piece? What about his interest in aviation?

Do you think Hunt's *Amphora* has the same function as the classical Greek amphora? Why or why not?

Bryan Hunt, continued



Activity

Find a picture of an ancient Greek amphora. Think about how Hunt's *Amphora* is different and/or similar. Then choose a common object (something that we use every day, such as a hair brush, a coffee mug, a shoe, etc.) to depict in clay. Change its volume, texture, and slightly change its shape. What happens when you make a useful everyday object not useful?



Look Again

Hunt uses limestone to create pedestals—which resemble columns and capitals—for his sculptures. He chose limestone for its neutral surface and to evoke classical art and architecture.

During the modern period, some artists have rejected the use of pedestals, while others have embraced it. What are some of the advantages of setting a sculpture on a pedestal? What are the disadvantages? Hunt does not make pedestals for his largest sculptures. Why not?



BTW

Hunt's sculptures in the early 1970s were architectural models of famous landmark structures, such as the Hoover Dam and the Empire State Building.



Vocabulary

Aviation - Airplane design, development, manufacture, and use

Conceptually based - Based on concepts or thoughts

Consciousness - The state of being aware, especially of something within yourself

Dynamic energy - Energetic movement or vitality

Topography - The practice of creating detailed images on maps or charts that show natural and man-made features of a place, often indicating positions and elevations