

Landmarks Guide for Adolescents



Nancy Rubins

American, born 1952

Monochrome for Austin

2015

Stainless steel and aluminum

Subject: Interpreting meaning in a work of art

Activity: Creative writing

Materials: Pen or pencil and paper

Vocabulary: Context, narrative story, persuasive story

Introduction

Public works of art like *Monochrome for Austin* are meant to be seen by everyone. Nancy Rubins makes sculptures like this for locations all around the world. If you don't know what a work of art means, try to imagine why the artist created it and why he/she used certain materials. If you've seen something similar, what did it mean to you and how did it make you feel?

Questions

Do you have to know the story behind a work of art in order to enjoy it?

Do your past experiences help you to understand and appreciate a work of art more?

Activity

Come up with a newspaper headline for *Monochrome for Austin*. Just like those for real newspapers, it should be short and grab the reader's attention. Write a short article about the history of the sculpture or artist. Be creative! It doesn't have to be a true story. You or a friend can draw an illustration for your story.

Vocabulary

Context - A set of facts that help interpret a work of art

Narrative story - A story based on a real or imagined event

Persuasive story - A story that tries to convince the reader to make a choice or take action