

Landmarks Guide for Older Children



Raoul Hague

American, born in Turkey, 1904–1993

Big Indian Mountain

1965–1966

Black walnut

Subject: Carving methods

Activity: Carve into a piece of wood

Materials: A piece of wood, a chisel, a hammer

Vocabulary: Biomorphic abstraction, direct carve

i Introduction

Raoul Hague was born in Istanbul, Turkey, and later came to the United States to attend college. He began using the direct-carve method when he lived in New York City. Direct carve is a technique in which the form of the sculpture develops, or changes, as the artist works into the block or is suggested by the shape of the block.

Later, Hague moved out of New York City to Woodstock, New York. There he used wood that he found locally. He appreciated the natural shapes, colors, and textures of the trees. Raoul Hague's sculptures were inspired by nature and his artistic style was called biomorphic abstraction because he used abstract shapes inspired by living things.

? Questions

What material did the artist use to create this sculpture?

How do you think the sculpture would look if Hague used a different carving technique?

Where do you think Raoul Hague found this material?

Raoul Hague, continued



Activity

Study the sculpture and imagine the tools that Hague might have used to carve it. Using a chisel and hammer, carve in various ways into a large piece of soft wood. Is it more interesting to follow the grain of the wood like Hague, or to carve against it? Why?



Vocabulary

Biomorphic Abstraction - Organic shapes taken from nature that are not realistic

Direct Carve - A carving technique in which the form of the sculpture develops as the artist works into the block or is suggested by the shape of the block