

Landmarks Guide for Older Children



Nancy Rubins
American, born 1952

Monochrome for Austin
2015
Stainless steel and aluminum

Subject: Form and balance

Activity: Toothpick sculptures

Materials: Play dough and toothpicks

Vocabulary: Gravity and balance

Introduction

You can make a sculpture out of almost anything. Artist Nancy Rubins uses everyday things like toasters, hairdryers, and even playground equipment. In *Monochrome for Austin* she used canoes and boats.

Questions

Can you guess how many canoes and boats she used?

Why do you think Nancy Rubins used boats and canoes?

If you could make a sculpture out of anything, what would you choose?

Activity

Pinch off pieces of play dough about the size of small marshmallows and roll them into balls. Stick a toothpick into a play-dough ball. Now stick another ball on the other end and add another toothpick. Try constructing a pyramid out of toothpicks by using the play-dough balls to connect the toothpicks. Now use your imagination to build your own sculpture.

Nancy Rubins, continued



BTW

Nancy Rubins used 70 canoes and small boats to make this sculpture.



Look Again

See how each boat is attached in Nancy Rubins's sculpture. What is holding the sculpture in place? Gravity is always pulling things down to earth. When you are building your toothpick sculptures, try to think of the best way to keep them from falling.



Vocabulary

Gravity - Force that holds everything to the ground and causes things to fall toward the ground

Balance - An equal distribution of weight so that structures will stand



Artists with related works

Mark di Suvero, *Clock Knot*

David Hare, *The Swan's Dream of Leda*

Peter Reginato, *Kingfish*