

Landmarks Guide for Younger Children



Juan Hamilton

American, born 1945

Curve and Shadow, No. 2

1983

Bronze

Subject: Shadow

Activity: Create new forms that include shadows

Materials: Black paper, flashlight, scissors, tape

Vocabulary: Artist, curve, sculpture, shadow, shape

Introduction

Tell your child that a shadow is a dark image that is made when an object blocks light. When you stand in the sun, you can see your own shadow. The shape of your shadow will change depending on the position of the sun.

This artist uses shadow as part of his sculpture. The black curved metal is one piece that connects to the shadow it creates below. Looking at these two parts together can make a whole new shape.

Questions

What shape do you see when you look at the sculpture?

Why did the artist choose this color and shape for the sculpture?

What new shape do you see when you look at the sculpture and its shadow together?

Did the artist choose a good name for his sculpture? Why or why not?

Observations

Note that while all sculptures cast shadows, it is unusual for an artist to use a shadow as part of his art. You may point out to the child that a sundial also uses a shadow but for the purpose of telling time.



Activity

Cut a long strip of black paper and find a place on the floor where you could project a shadow. Fold the ends and tape them to the floor at a distance shorter than the length of the paper. Dim the lights and encourage the child to make different curves in the paper while you shine a flashlight on it at various angles.

Vocabulary

Artist - Someone who makes things, such as paintings and sculptures

Curve - A smooth, round shape

Sculpture - A work of art that has height, width, and depth

Shadow - A darkened shape that is behind something blocking the light

Shape - An outline of a body, like a circle or square

Artists with Related Works

Magdalena Abakanowicz, *Figure on a Trunk*, 2000

David Hare, *The Swan's Dream of Leda*, 1962

Tony Smith, *Amaryllis*, 1965