

Landmarks Guide for Younger Children



Antoine Pevsner

French, born in Russia, 1886–1962

Column of Peace

1954

Bronze

Subject: Symmetry

Activity: Create a symmetrical painting

Materials: Paper and acrylic or tempura paint

Vocabulary: Diagonal, harmony, symmetry

i Introduction

Antoine Pevsner wanted this sculpture to make the viewer feel hopeful about the future. Called *Column of Peace*, the artist hoped that the work would be made into a larger monument in a park commemorating the end of World War II. Pevsner used a combination of diagonal lines to create a balanced composition that is harmonious and symmetrical. Symmetry and balance are qualities we often associate with peace and unity.

? Questions

Can you name some symmetrical things you see everyday?

What other signs and symbols of peace or unity can you think of? Does this sculpture fit in with them?

Do you think this sculpture conveys ideas of hope and peace, like the artist intended? If not, what feelings or ideas do they convey?

Imagine this sculpture had been made to be very large. What might it appear to be?



Activity

Fold a sheet of paper in half, then unfold it, creating a crease that marks the middle of the paper. Use a brush to apply paint to one half of the paper only. Leave the paint thick in blobs, without spreading it out over the paper too much. Before the paint has a chance to dry, carefully refold the paper along the crease. When you open the page back up, notice how the paint has transferred to the other side, creating a symmetrical composition. Repeat this process on new sheets, experimenting with where you apply the paint and seeing how the results change.



Vocabulary

Diagonal - A line that runs at a slant, between vertical and horizontal

Harmony - Having balanced or equal parts

Symmetry - Something having balanced or equal distributions among its parts



Artists with Related Works

Beverly Pepper, *Harmonious Triad*, 1982–83