

Goal: Analyze the concept of shape and form to create two works of art based on one image.

Prior Knowledge: Elements of art, shape and form

Observation: Study the sculpture *My Cat*. Then look at the outline drawing of *My Cat*.

Discussion: For the sculpture *My Cat*, what was your first observation? What feelings are evoked by a simplified form such as the one shown? For the outline drawing of *My Cat*, what was your first observation? Did the feeling or mood of the work change when it was portrayed as a 2-dimensional shape instead of a 3-dimensional sculpture?

Supplies: Air dry white molding clay, cardboard or wood squares, sculpting tools, plastic, cloth or wax paper, pencil, paper, black ink pens

Activity 1: Sculpture

Process: Sculpt a simplified animal or human sculpture out of air dry white clay. De-emphasize the extremities and proportion details. Focus on the recognizable parts of the head and face so the sculpture is easily identifiable. (Hint: Build the sculpture on a square of cardboard or cutting board so the sculpture can be easily moved without disturbing the form created. Cloth or wax paper is recommended between the clay and the surface so as the sculpture dries it will not stick and crack while it shrinks. Covering the sculpture in plastic can help minimize twisting and cracking in dry environments while it cures.) Once the sculpture is dry, use white spray paint or clear coat to seal the surface.



Activity 2: Drawing

Process: Create an outline drawing of the sculpture on paper in pencil, paying close attention to the shapes depicted. Outline in black ink pen and erase stray pencil marks.

Time: 2, one hour sessions

Modifications: Take a photo of the sculpture and print out the picture. This image can then be used to draw from or to trace the outline shape.

Standards

Visual Arts

Artistic Process - Creating, Anchor Standard #2 – Organize and develop artistic work, VA.CR.2.5a, a. Develop skills in multiple art-making techniques and experiment with approaches (such as using elements and principles of modern art, applying artistic norms of diverse cultures, etc.) through practice.

Arizona Department of Education: K-12 Academic Standards <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>



Allan Houser (1914-1994)
My Cat, 1979
Marble, 26.5 X 14 X 10 inches
87.210, Gift of Mrs. Scott Libby Jr.

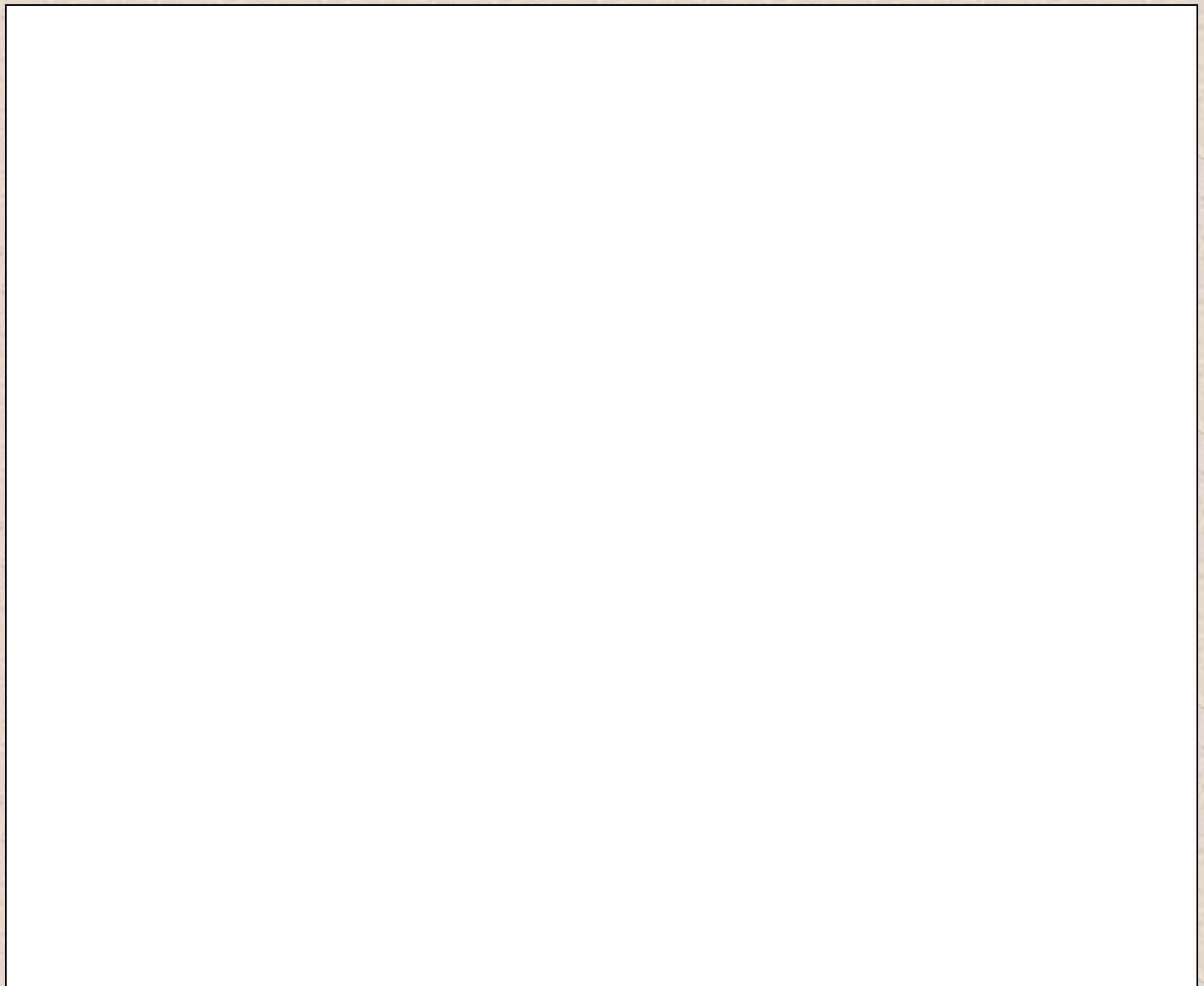
Brian W. Dippie, *Crossroads: The Desert Caballeros Western Museum at Fifty*, 109 (2010)



Outline drawing based on Allan Houser's *My Cat*

DCWM Activity: Shape and Form

Directions: When you tour the museum, look at the various sculptures from multiple angles. Note how the form and feeling of the sculpture can change from different vantage points. Then select a sculpture you would like to draw. Sit or stand from the vantage point that is most appealing and lightly sketch a rough outline of the sculpture paying close attention to the shapes you see in the space below. Once the outline drawing is complete, bold the lines you wish to keep and erase any stray marks. Remember to write the artist's name and the title of the work depicted.



Artist _____ Title _____

Additional Resources

https://www.getty.edu/education/teachers/building_lessons/elements_art.pdf	Elements of Art
http://thevirtualinstructor.com/Shape.html	Shape PowerPoint Video
http://thevirtualinstructor.com/form.html	Form PowerPoint Video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWUuGDovHEI	Carving marble with traditional tools video

“The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark. Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it.”

- Michelangelo

Desert Caballeros Western Museum exhibitions in the upstairs galleries and Cultural Crossroads Learning Center rotate throughout the year, including pieces in our permanent collection. Refer to our website calendar for exhibition schedules and special events. The downstairs historical displays are available for viewing year round.

School tours of the museum are always FREE! Ask about our docent-led tour, student activities led by our museum staff and self-guided audio tour. Boyd Ranch reservations are available during the winter months.

Call and sign up for a school tour today!
