



3-D Art Processes: Sculpture

An Introduction

- As an art form, sculpture differs from painting in that it exists in actual space. It can be seen, touched, and even walked around.
- Painting may hope to suggest an illusion of space.
- Sculpture is 3-D; Paintings are 2-D.

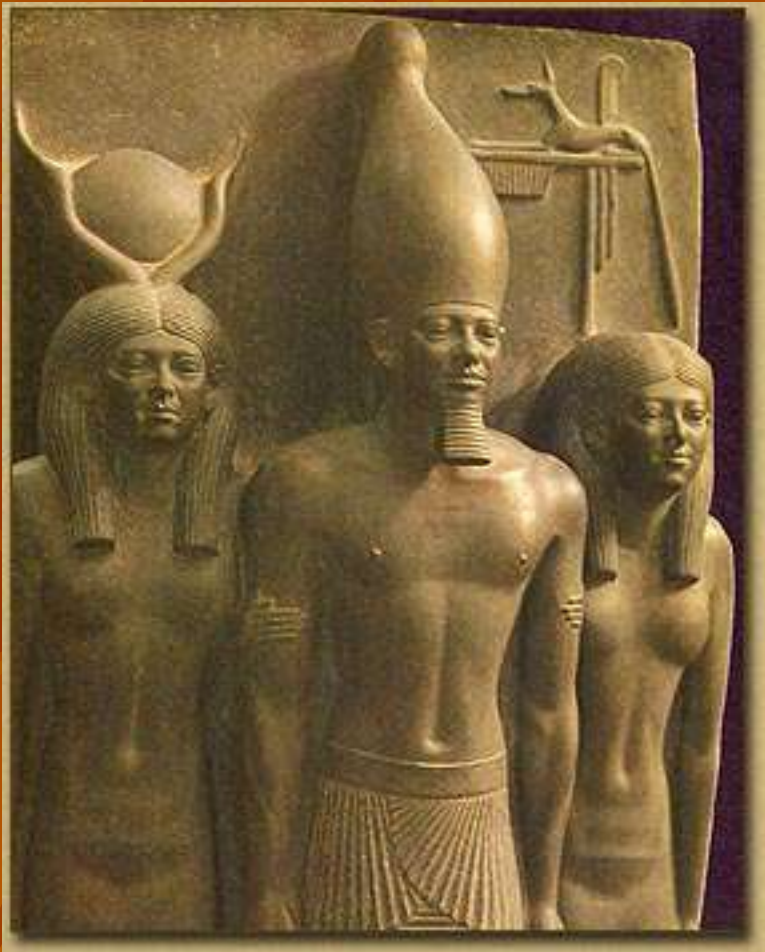
Objectives:

- *Name* several three-dimensional processes and identify the media used in each.
- *Explain* how relief sculpture differs from sculpture in the round.
- *Specify* why the choice of materials is important for both sculptor and viewer.
- *Describe* the sculpture processes of modeling, casting, carving, and assembling.
- *Create* a three-dimensional work of art.

Relief Sculpture

- Not all sculptures can be viewed from all sides.
- Relief sculptures are similar in some ways to painting in that their 3-D forms are attached to a flat surface.
- Like paintings, these works are designed to be viewed from only the front.
- In low relief, or bas relief, the *forms project only slightly from the background.*
- In high relief, *the sculptured forms extend boldly out into space.*

High Relief



- This Old Kingdom high relief sculpture of King Mycerinus Between Two Goddesses shows the formal stance and perfection that was used to depict the Pharaoh in Egyptian Art in the Old and Middle Kingdoms.

Low, or Bas Relief



Sculpture in the Round

- **Sculpture in the round** *is freestanding sculpture surrounded on all sides by space.*
- However, not all freestanding sculptures are meant to be seen from all sides.
- Many are designed to be examined only from the front and sides in much the same way one would almost look at 2-D art works.
- An example of such is the ancient Egyptian statue of the Lady Senuwy.

The Winged Victory



Winged Victory of Samothrace
Marble, h. 3.28 m (11 ft)
Found on the island of Rhodes
Around 190 BC
Musee du Louvre, Paris

**Was created to be
an angel at the
front of a ship.**

Materials and Tools for Sculpture

- What could one use when creating sculpture?
- Clay
- Wood
- Stone
- Metal

Materials, Cont'd.

- Auguste Rodin used clay because it is easy to manipulate and offers a great deal of spontaneity.
- He added freshness and vitality to a portrait of a young woman.
- Jean-Antoine Houdon proved that marble could be an excellent choice of medium.
- It can be carved and polished to capture the warmth, soft, silky look and feel of a child's face.



Auguste
Rodin –
*Bust of a
Woman*

1865



Jean-Antoine Houdon

Louise Brongniart

Date Unknown

Processes of Sculpture

- **Modeling** – *A process in which a soft, pliable material is built up and shaped.*
- The artist uses a material such as clay, wax, or plaster.
- Because the artist adds more and more material to build a 3-D form, modeling is referred to as an additive process.
- Armatures (or support systems) are used to provide support needed as the artist builds the sculpture around it. These are usually made of metal.



Angel with the Superscription

Gianlorenzo Bernini

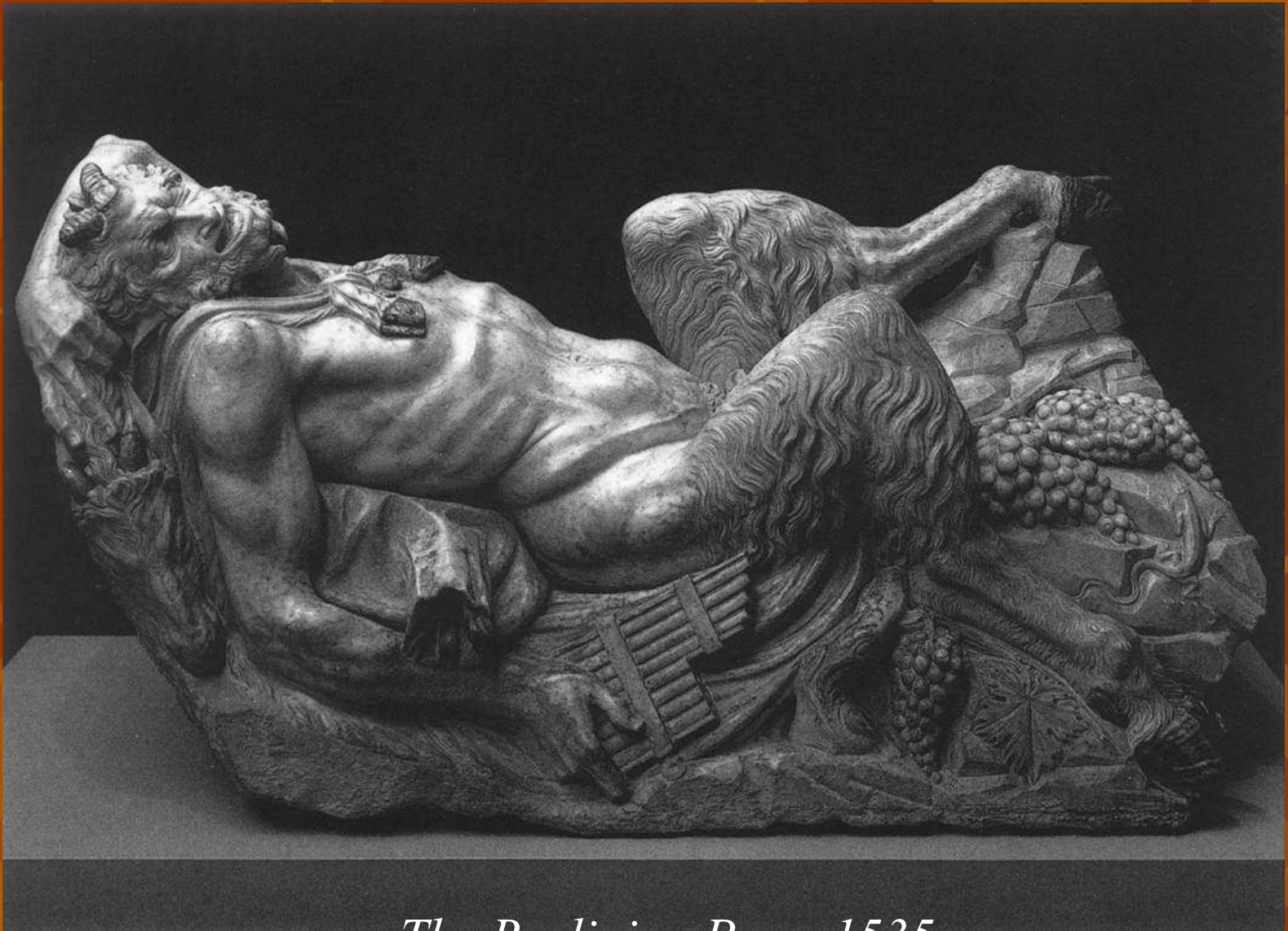
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Carving

- **Carving** – *A process of cutting or chipping a form from a given mass of material to create a sculpture.*
- Unlike modeling, which is an additive process, carving is subtractive.
- Material is removed until the sculpture is completely exposed.
- Stone carving is a process that has changed little over the centuries.

Carving, Cont'd.

- Flat-toothed chisels were originally used; Today, many power tools are utilized.
- The effect is to provide a warm luster to the finished product.
- One must take into consideration that every stone has its own weaknesses and characteristics.
- Today, ice sculptures are created for many events – created from chainsaws!



The Reclining Pan - 1535

Giovanni Angelo Montorsoli



St. Cosmas

Casting

- **Casting** – *A process where melted-down metal or other liquid substance is poured into a mold to harden.*
- When poured into the mold, excess material leaks out.
- This is called *cire-perdue* – or “lost wax”
- Investment – A fireproof mold

Assembly

- **Assembly** – *The process where the artist gathers and joins together a variety of different materials to construct a 3-D work of art.*
- They use found objects as their media, or common or unusual objects are placed together to create a work of art.

Kinetic Art



- Kinetic Art is *a sculptural form that actually moves in space.*
- Movements are caused by natural phenomena.