

William King

American Sculptor

1925-2015

Overview

As a child, William King built model airplanes and carved cities out of coral with a screwdriver “chisel” and a hammer “mallet” (*William King: Forty Years of Work in Wood*, 1994).

He briefly studied engineering at the University of Florida before enrolling in the architecture program at the Cooper Union Art School. During his first year at Cooper Union, King was impressed by the steel sculptures of David Smith and promised to make a similar piece for an attractive female classmate. He began selling works to friends and fellow students and committed himself to a career in sculpture. King constructs his pieces from a variety of materials, ranging from burlap to wood to aluminum. He draws inspiration from daily life, and his tall, elongated figures imitate everyday human gestures, poking fun at human behavior.

Smithsonian Museum of Art

Notice

Notice King's characters with their long legs and exaggerated movements.

Supplies

Foil

Directions

Think of a movement you made today. Make the movement and observe your body.

Using the foil, create a sculpture of a character making that movement.

Discussion

Our bodies make movements all day long—some so automatic we don't even realize it's happening. What was it like to observe your body in a movement? What are you grateful for your body doing today? How can you use your body to make art?



Photos from Williamkingsculpture.com



paint
love.