

Auguste Rodin-5th(body shop)

Form Lesson Plan

Supplies:

paper plates
clay
popsicle sticks
toothpicks

Biography:

Rodin was born in 1840 to working class family. He was primarily self-educated however attended a grade school, Petite Ecole, a school specializing in arts and mathematics, where he studied and developed his drawing and painting. Although Rodin was extremely influenced by the Italian Renaissance work of Michelangelo and Donatello he broke away from the accepted and preferred manner of sculpture of his time period. The first sculpture he submitted for an exhibition in 1864, The Man with a Broken Nose, was refused for its unconventional nature. It was, as many of his future pieces, viewed as unfinished. The head was "broken off" at the neck, the nose was unflattering, and the back of the head was absent. His work here, as well as in his later pieces, had more of emotional and emphasized texture than the norm. Rodin struggled with popularity and occasionally surrounded with controversy. His work focused on the emotion of the subject through the portrayal of physical features. An example is seen in The Thinker. Rodin says "What makes my Thinker think is that he thinks not only with his brain, with his knitted brow, his distended nostrils and compressed lips, but with every muscle of his arms, back, and legs, with his clenched fist and gripping toes." By the end of his lifetime, Rodin had become legendary. He is now considered the most important sculpture of the modern era.

Discussion:

- Name some different forms.
- How do they differ from shapes?
- Where do you see forms in thos artwork?
- How did the artist sculpt the form?
- Discuss the different features of the face and the forms that you might see in them.

Art Project:

- Give each student a piece of clay on a paper plate.
- Ask them to sculpt a head, adding as much detail as possible.
- They may use their fingers, popsicle sticks or toothpicks to create details in their sculpture.
- Set them aside to dry after they are finished.