



**Tom Claassen (2004), Bronze, 87" x 61" x 55"; 63" x 68" x 45"**

The sculptures of artist Tom Claassen often feature animals and are full of surprises.

## LOOK

The smooth, white, rounded shapes of the two rabbits look soft and squishy, like marshmallow fluff, but when you touch them you'll find they are actually made of cold, hard bronze painted white. The rabbits sit directly on the ground looking out on the park like real rabbits inviting you to hop on and even though they are enormous their cartoon looks and friendly rounded shapes make them very huggable.

## SEE

Why is one rabbit standing up and the other is laying down?

What do you think each rabbit is thinking?

Which rabbit is most like you?

## DO

1. Form a circle and takes turns telling a story about the rabbits. One child starts and as you go around the circle each one adds to it.

2. Teach kids how to do the bunny hop and dance around the sculpture.

3. Fill in the blanks and create your own Funny Bunny story.

(name of a person or character) and (name of person or character) are best bunnies. One bunny is (adjective) and the other is (adjective). They (verb) and (verb) around Citygarden all day long. One (adjective) day the bunnies decided to go on an

adventure, so when all the (plural noun) at the park (verb past tense), they (verb past tense) and (verb past tense) out of Citygarden. It took them (number over 100) hops but they finally got to (Place). They were (adjective). They ate (plural noun) and played (game). But the bunnies missed their friends and (plural noun) at Citygarden so they were (emotion). They (verb past tense) all the way back home and lived hoppily ever after.

4. Using homemade clay, create your own rabbits.

#### MODELING CLAY

##### Materials

- 2 cups salt
- 2/3 cups water
- Saucepan
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 cup cold water

##### Directions

1. Stir salt and water in a saucepan over heat 4-5 minutes.
2. Remove from heat; add cornstarch and cold water.
3. Stir until smooth; return to heat and cook until thick.
4. Allow the clay to cool, then shape as desired.
5. Store unused clay in a zipper storage bag.



**Mark di Suvero (1990), Painted Steel, 11'-5" x 32'-4.5" x 13'-7.5"**

The artist, Mark di Suvero, titles this sculpture *Aesop's Fables*. Aesop was a storyteller who lived in Ancient Greece. He created stories about animals acting wise or foolish to teach lessons or morals about everyday life. Here are two examples of *Aesop's Fables* to read aloud while you look at the statue.

THE FOX AND THE GOAT

A Fox fell into a well, and though it was not very deep, he found that he could not get out again. After he had been in the well a long time, a thirsty Goat came by. The Goat thought the Fox had gone down to drink, and so he asked if the water was good.

"The finest in the whole country," said the crafty Fox, "jump in and try it. There is more than enough for both of us."

The thirsty Goat immediately jumped in and began to drink. The Fox just as quickly jumped on the Goat's back and leaped from the tip of the Goat's horns out of the well.

The foolish Goat now saw what a plight he had got into, and begged the Fox to help him out. But the Fox was already on his way to the woods.

"If you had as much sense as you have beard, old fellow," he said as he ran, "you would have been more cautious about finding a way to get out again before you jumped in."

MORAL

Look before you leap.

## THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

A Hare was making fun of the Tortoise one day for being so slow.

"Do you ever get anywhere?" he asked with a mocking laugh.

"Yes," replied the Tortoise, "and I get there sooner than you think. I'll run you a race and prove it."

The Hare was much amused at the idea of running a race with the Tortoise, but for the fun of the thing he agreed. So the Fox, who had consented to act as judge, marked the distance and started the runners off.

The Hare was soon far out of sight, and to make the Tortoise feel very deeply how ridiculous it was for him to try a race with a Hare, he lay down beside the course to take a nap until the Tortoise should catch up.

The Tortoise meanwhile kept going slowly but steadily, and, after a time, passed the place where the Hare was sleeping. But the Hare slept on very peacefully; and when at last he did wake up, the Tortoise was near the goal. The Hare now ran his swiftest, but he could not overtake the Tortoise in time.

### MORAL

The race is not always to the swift

## LOOK

Walk around, underneath and behind the sculpture looking at it from different angles and perspectives. Although made of industrial I-beams welded together, the sculpture is not static. You are meant to see it move while you move.

## SEE

Describe what you see when you look at the sculpture.

Point to the left side of the sculpture.

What shapes do you see?

What letters do you see?

Point to the right side of the sculpture.

What shapes do you see?

What letters do you see?

How are they the same?

How are they different?

How are they connected?



**Tom Otterness (2001), Bronze, 104.5" x 68" x 65.5"**

Tom Otterness was inspired by cartoon characters, Disney films, and the games and stories he learned as a young boy. Public art is his focus and has been regarded by some as "the world's best public sculptor." He is also one of only a handful of contemporary artists to have been invited to design a balloon for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. In 2005 his tumbling Humpty-Dumpty was a crowd favorite.

## LOOK

At first glance, *Kindly Geppetto* appears comical, but it carries a serious message as it explores the relationship between the creator and his creation. Pinocchio wants desperately to be a real boy, but first must prove to Geppetto that he can be truthful and knows the difference between right and wrong. If you look closely you'll see that Geppetto is frowning as he is about to strike his puppet with a mallet. However, it is up to interpretation why Geppetto is frowning and whether he is doing so in the process of crafting Pinocchio or in the midst of destroying the puppet.

## SEE

What do you see?

Who are these characters?

Which one is the bigger one?

And who is the smaller one?

Look at their face. Are they smiling or frowning?

What do you think each one is thinking? Why?

What is about to happen?

How would you describe Geppetto?

The artist calls this sculpture *Kindly Geppetto*. What do you think being kind means and do you think Geppetto is being kind in this sculpture?

Why would the artist describe Geppetto as kind when he doesn't really think he is?

Can you think of examples of when you say the opposite of what you really mean?

What do you think this piece should really be called?

## DO

1. Ask your students to form a circle around the sculpture and while holding hands, have them walk in a circle until the teacher shouts, "Freeze." Then one at a time, ask your students to shout out how the sculpture makes them feel.
2. Play "Who is the "Puppet Master?" Form a circle and send one person away so they can't see or hear what is being said. While that person is gone, designate one person in the circle to be the Puppet Master. Then ask the person who was sent away to come back. Everyone in the circle follows the Puppet Master's movements until the person who was sent away can guess who the Puppet Master is.
3. Brainstorm ideas on how to be more kind in class. Prompt your students with "What is something kind you saw someone do today?" Record their answers on a sheet of paper and have them add to it throughout the day.
4. Draw all the shapes you see in the sculpture.



**Igor Mitoraj (1999), Bronze, 89" x 146" x 114"**

Igor Mitoraj creates larger than life sculptures that look like fragments from ancient civilizations, like this giant head of Eros.

## LOOK

In Greek mythology, Eros is the god of love. It was said that he would shoot arrows at people's hearts and make them fall in love. The ancient gods and goddesses were like superheroes and heroines.

## SEE

Describe the sculpture. How does this sculpture make you feel?

Why is he wrapped?

Does Eros still have his powers?

What super powers would you most like to possess?

How would you use them?

Does Eros remind you of anyone you know who appears on Valentine's Day?

## DO

1. Eros had big wings and carried a bow and arrow. Draw what you would look like if you had superpowers. How would you be dressed? Would you carry anything?

2. Pair up your students. Ask each one to close their eyes and scribble on a piece of paper and hand it to their partner. Their partner is challenged to turn that scribble into something real.

3. Have students draw what they see while they are looking at Eros, but they can't peek at their drawing while they're doing it or pick up the pencil. It's a good way to encourage students to draw what they see, not just what they think they see.
4. Pair up your students and have them draw their partners face without looking at their drawing or picking up their pencil.





**Jim Dine (2009), Painted Bronze, 14'-7" x 11'-3" x 5'-8"**

## LOOK

Pinocchio seems to be welcoming visitors to the park with open arms. The beauty of this sculpture is that you can feel different emotions depending on where you stand, whether in front, behind or under the sculpture, so walk around the sculpture, look up and note how each perspective makes you feel.

## SEE

What do you see? How does it make you feel?

If this sculpture came to life, what do you think Pinocchio would say?

Is Pinocchio a real boy or puppet in this sculpture?

## DO

1. Ask your students to act like puppets. Divide into groups of two. One is the puppet-master and the other is the puppet. The one who is the puppet has to pretend to be a puppet, doing different things while the other one pretends to pull the strings.

2. Sketch the sculpture.

3. Ask your students what they think Pinocchio is thinking.