

Worksheet 5 Teachers

Theme Beautiful, more beautiful, most beautiful

Artist
Auguste Rodin 1840 - 1917

Artwork
Femme accroupie 1882
(*Squatting woman*)


Look

- • What do you see? Tell each other what you notice about this work.

- **Auguste Rodin is one of the most famous sculptors ever. The French artist did something that nobody had done before: he made sculptures that look like real people. That might sound strange, but in those days, sculptures often stood stiffly upright. With a smooth skin and a perfect face. Rodin made his sculptures 'move' and sculpted what he actually saw in reality: such as muscles, bones and even the veins under the skin.**

Research

- • Take another look: which bones and muscles can you see clearly?
- • Can you see those bones or muscles in your own body too?
- • Which part of the sculpture looks most realistic? And which the least?

-  **An interesting fact: some people thought that Rodin was a fraud. They thought that he covered his models with plaster and copied their bodies in that way. Because sculpting so 'realistically', that was surely impossible?**

Do

- • Talking about impossible: can you copy the pose of the sculpture? Have a go and make sure that everything is right. The teacher/supervisor can check this. Then see who can sit longest in this pose. The winner gets a wonderful honorary title: Rodin's new top model!

Philosophize start

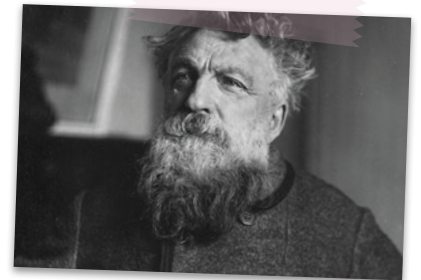
- When do you call something beautiful?

Philosophize follow up

- • Is something more beautiful if it has no flaws at all, or if it's completely lifelike?
- Is beauty a question of taste, or of feeling?
- Is something beautiful in itself, or because someone finds it beautiful?

Philosophize higher order

- Does something exist that is more beautiful than beautiful?



Connecting thread

- Take another look at *Femme accroupie*. Is she more beautiful now than when we began?

Do see children's worksheets

Write/imagine:

- Ask the children to write words on the worksheet that relate to the artwork. Using these words, they write an 'elf' (Dutch for eleven). An 'elf' is a poem with five lines and eleven words. Line one consists of one word, line two of two and so on. Line five has one word again. You can find an example on the worksheet. Of course, the text can also be completed in the classroom. Stand around the sculpture (or view it on the smartboard in the classroom) and recite the poems. We already have a top model, but who will be Rodin's new top poet?

Learn more?



The director 'This sculpture has another interesting story. Rodin made it for a large gateway, full of wonderful sculptures. The gate was intended for a new sculpture museum. But when the gateway was almost complete, Rodin heard that the museum would never be built. *Squatting woman* and also his famous *Thinker* were later sold as individual sculptures.'



Think extra

- What do you think? Is it a shame that the gateway was never completed, or is it actually good that you can now see these sculptures from all sides?
- Imagine that you are giving a guided tour. Where would you stand to describe this sculpture? In front? Or is there a better spot, where you can see clearly how 'realistic' it is?



The director 'But the story's not over yet. Helene Kröller-Müller also dreamed of a large museum. Much bigger than the museum is today, and in a different location in the park. But unfortunately, this museum too would never be completed.

The money suddenly ran out and construction work was stopped. But a few stones were still put to good use: they became the pedestal for this beautiful sculpture.'



Do extra

- How many stones from the 'Grand museum' were used for the pedestal? What do you think: should the museum have made more of these pedestals? Or is it actually good that there is only one?
- Are you here by bicycle? Then ride a little towards Schaarsbergen later, until you see a large, open area on the left. In the hillside, you can see the 'ruins': the remains of the entrance to the 'Grand museum'. Be sure to take a look if you have time. Then you can really imagine how big it was going to be!