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Welcome to

Claiming Space: Refiguring the Body in Landscape

at Montalvo Arts Center

As you walk through this exhibition, you will see sculptures that represent bodies of all shapes, colors, and sizes.

Something the artists would want you to know is that no matter what they look like, all bodies are whole and special.

How can pose, size, texture, and color tell a unique story about a person and how their body carries their story?

What kinds of memories and stories are held in your body?

Get ready to express yourself with your body through movement, conversation, looking, drawing, and writing as you learn from the sculptures in this guide!

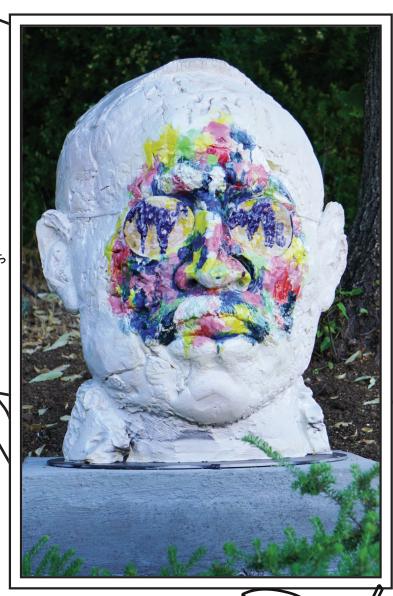
Are you ready?

Always remember to look with your eyes and not with your hands, stay close to your grownup, and—
most importantly—have fun!

Here is where our tour begins!

Wankin Zhang C. L. Wankin Zhang is inspired by Orsto of 2013 Ihang is inspired by Orsto of 2013 Ihang is inspired by Wankin Zhang is inspired by Orinese of 2011 Dynasty terracotta warriors to Chinese that Olin Dynasty terracotta warriors that each of 2011 Dynasty the masks that a section at ed 2011 Italian the masks that a section poperal performances, especially the masks fascinated western poperal performances, especially the masks convey different he a man's head, Thang is especially the here, he a performances, especially the his thoughts opera performances, and personalities. Here, he the actors wear on stage. Thang it is thoughts opera performances and personalities, and what it is operated by how the masks communicate his thoughts of the actors wear of communicate his themes opera.

In about his tory, politics, and what it was a subject to the provided his tory.



LOOK CLOSELY AT COLOR FACE.

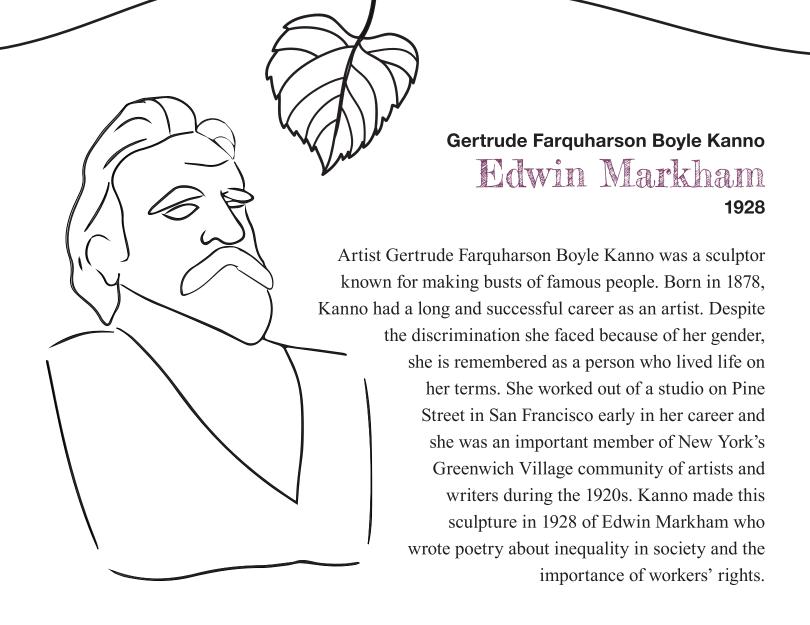
What colors do you see? What do you think they might mean?



What words would you use to describe this artwork?



A bust is like a portrait. It captures the unique features of a person. Now look up the path towards the hill for Edwin Markham's bust. What are some details we do not know because it is a bust? Look at Markham's expression. What kind of face is he making?



Now, walk down past Charmaine's Garden Terrace. Stop at the bottom of the steps to view:

Alison Saar

Alison Saar wants people to be drawn in by her art, which often

tells stories about the African

American experience. She says this sculpture is about the creative cycle: something that artists go through when they are making a piece of art. It is about balancing work with rest.

Saar says, "Winter looks like a stone, is petrified, and hibernating. She is curled

up, in a dormant stage." Saar thinks this is an important part of the creative process: taking a break and resting before beginning the cycle of taking action again.

The creative process is similar to the cycle of the seasons.

Nature rests in winter so that it can burst forth and blossom in spring!





How can you tell that Saar's figure is experiencing winter? Draw a picture or write a story about something or someone awakening from winter. What are they doing? How can you show a beginning, middle, and end?





Two stainless steel arms emerge from the ground, creating a triangle as one hand grasps the other person's wrist. In this sculpture, the artist is interested in the larger message of the struggle depicted, which is between a protestor and a police officer who has a weapon.

Like much of Thomas's work, this piece is about social justice, which refers to a fair relationship between people and society. Thomas makes artwork that shows how Black people have been mistreated throughout American history and have not been shown justice. Here, the protestor shows great strength in protecting themselves from the officer.



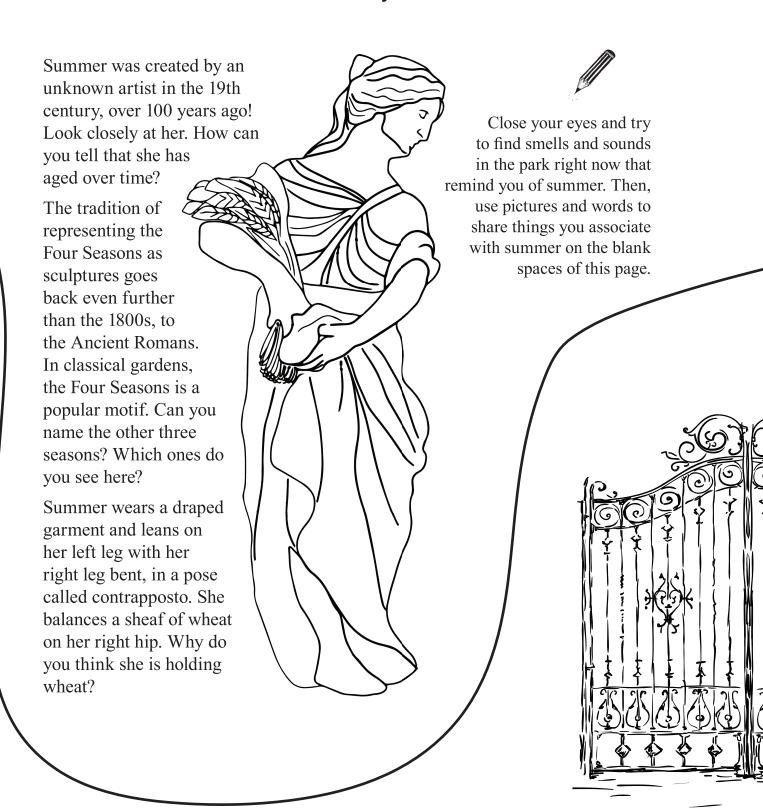
Close your eyes. Take a few seconds to think of a pose that makes you feel strong. When you are ready, show your pose to someone with you and have them show you theirs. How are your poses different? How are they similar? Share your pose with us @montalvoarts #ClaimingSpace.

Make your way down the Great Lawn towards the Italianate Garden, where you will see four sculptures arranged in a semicircle.

Artist Unknown

Summer of the Four Seasons

19th century



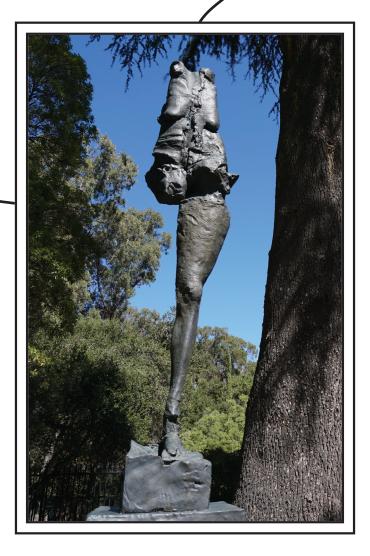
Walk to your left so that you are standing in front of One-Legged Woman Standing. How many steps did it take you?

Stephen De Staebler

ONE-LEGGED WOMAN STANDING

1982-1985

This is a striking sculpture. Spend a little time looking at it closely and noticing the different textures.

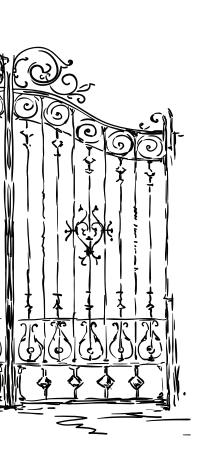


Artist Stephen
De Staebler was
interested in
capturing the
struggles and
challenges that are
part of all of our lives.
His sculptures appear
to defy gravity and be
rooted to the ground
at the same
time.

At first glance,
we might
think that
this person
is not whole
or that they
are missing
something. But
she is not. She
rises up strong
and steady,
like the tree
behind her.



Try to balance on one leg for more than five seconds. How did it feel? If it was difficult at first but you kept trying, good job!



Now, enter the Italianate Garden. Look to the right when you reach the four benches.

Oliver Lee Jackson

MARBLE SCULPTURE NO. 1

1983

Artist Oliver Jackson tells stories of transformation.

Stroll around the marble sculpture as you take a good long look. Notice how different cuts form elegant figures and shapes that emerge from the marble. Notice, too, how the color of the stone changes.

There are many ways to depict a person. Compared to other sculptures in this park, such as *Adam and Eve*, Jackson's creation is in a constant state of transformation. Figuration, or the depiction of a person, can take any and all forms, and every stage of its growth is beautiful.

Consider how each angle of Jackson's sculpture tells a different story of transformation.

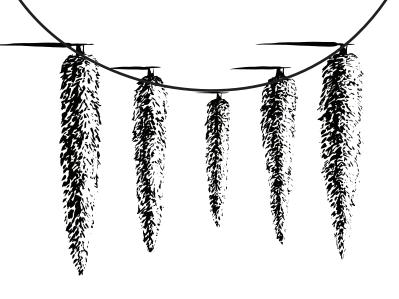


Imagine you and the sculpture are seedlings waiting for water and sunshine to grow and transform. What do you look like as you grow?

Come up with two poses that tell the story of your growth as a seedling.

Snap a photo of both poses and tell the story of your emergence. Share your photo with us @montalvoarts #ClaimingSpace.







Francesco Fabi-Altini Adam and Eve

mid- to late-19th century

In this sculpture by Franceso Fabi-Altini, Adam and Eve embrace one another. Look at how Eve rests her head on Adam's shoulder. How would you describe her expression?

Notice that Adam's hand is clasping Eve's arm.
What does this gesture tell us about their relationship?

In traditional carving, sculptors use a chisel to burst pieces of the stone away and a tooth chisel to form the sculpture's outline. Then sculptors use a rasp, a piece of metal with little teeth, to create texture.

What kind of texture does this sculpture have based on what you can see? Is it smooth, bumpy, or rough? Are all of the surface textures the same?

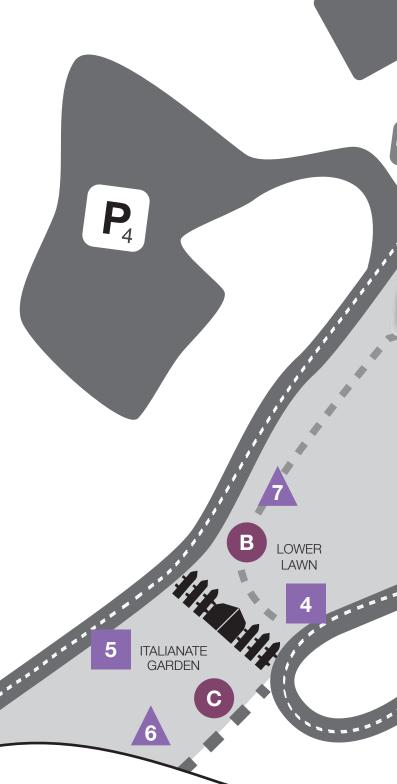
Look at the Adam and Eve sculpture. What similarities and differences do you notice between this sculpture and Jackson's?

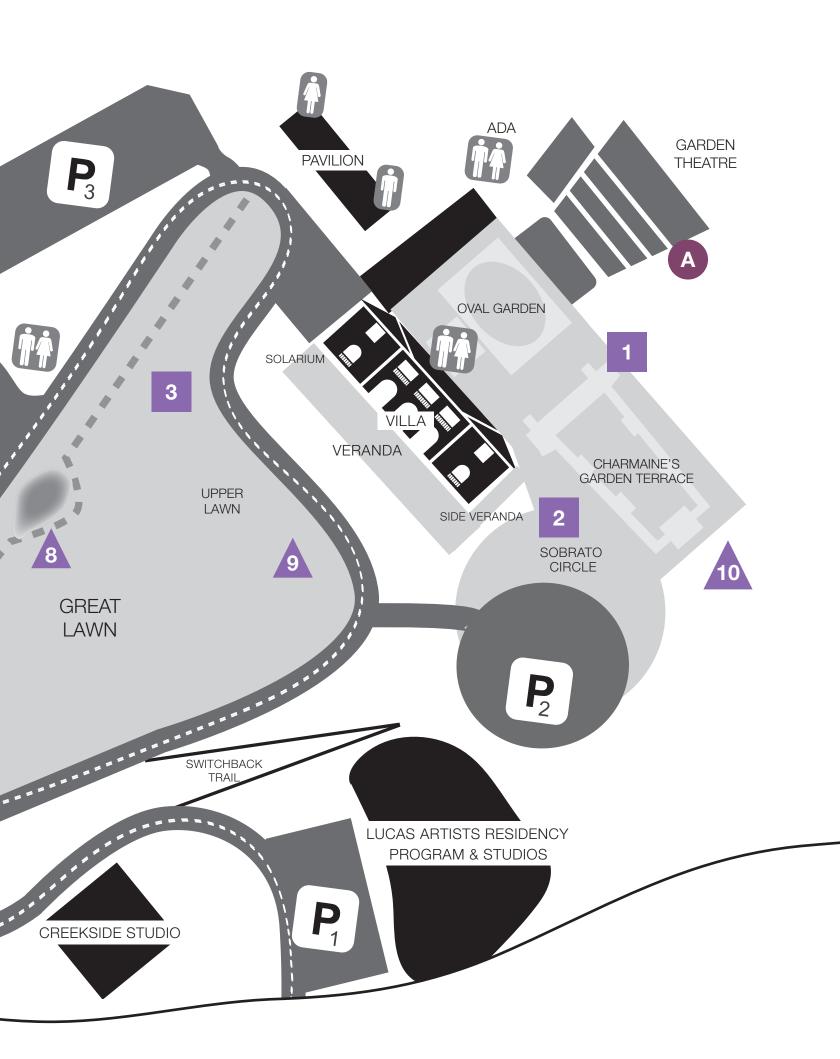
We hope you enjoyed learning about the sculptures in *Claiming Space* and the stories each of them tells. Did you have a favorite?

There are other works that we didn't talk about. You can find them on the map marked with a triangle.

LEGEND

- 1. Color Face
- 2. Winter
- 3. Strike
- 4. One Legged Woman
- 5. Marble Sculpture No. 1
- 6. Of Color
- 7. It's All About Love
- 8. Resilience of the 20%
- 9. Return to the Garden of Eden
- 10. Works by Riva Lehrer and Oliver Lee Jackson
- A. Edwin Markham
- B. Summer
- C. Adam and Eve





Credits

Wanxin Zhang (b. 1961)

Color Face, 2013

High fired clay with glaze

30 x 31 x 37 in.

Courtesy of the artist and Catharine Clark Gallery,

San Francisco Photo: Isaiah Plaza

Gertrude Farquharson Boyle Kanno

(1878-1937)

Edwin Markham, 1928

Cast bronze 26 x 23 x 12 in.

Collection of Montalvo Arts Center

Line drawing: Pallavi Nemali

Alison Saar (b. 1956)

Winter, 2011

Cast bronze

22 x 31 x 23 in.

Courtesy of the artist and L.A. Louver Gallery,

Venice, CA

Photo: Isaiah Plaza

Hank Willis Thomas (b. 1976)

Strike, 2021

Polished stainless steel

122 x 120 x 30 in.

Courtesy of the artist

Photo: Flying Studio, Los Angeles.

Courtesy of the artist and Kayne Griffin, Los Angeles

Artist Unknown

Summer (of the Four Seasons), 19th Century

Carved stone Height: 69 in.

Base: 36 x 21 x 21 in.

Collection of Montalvo Arts Center

Line drawing: Pallavi Nemali

Stephen De Staebler (1933–2011)

One Legged Woman Standing, 1982–1985

Cast bronze Height: 70 in.

Base: 36 x 21 x 21 in.

Collection of Montalvo Arts Center

Photo: Isaiah Plaza

Oliver Lee Jackson (b. 1935)

Marble Sculpture No. 1, 1983

Marble

56 x 23 x 27 in.

Courtesy of the artist and Rena Bransten Gallery,

San Francisco Photo: Isaiah Plaza

Francesco Fabi-Altini (1830–1906)

Adam and Eve, mid- to late-19th Century

Marble

Sculpture: 70 x 45 x 47 in. Base: 30 x 40 x 40 in.

Collection of Montalvo Arts Center

Line drawing: Pallavi Nemali

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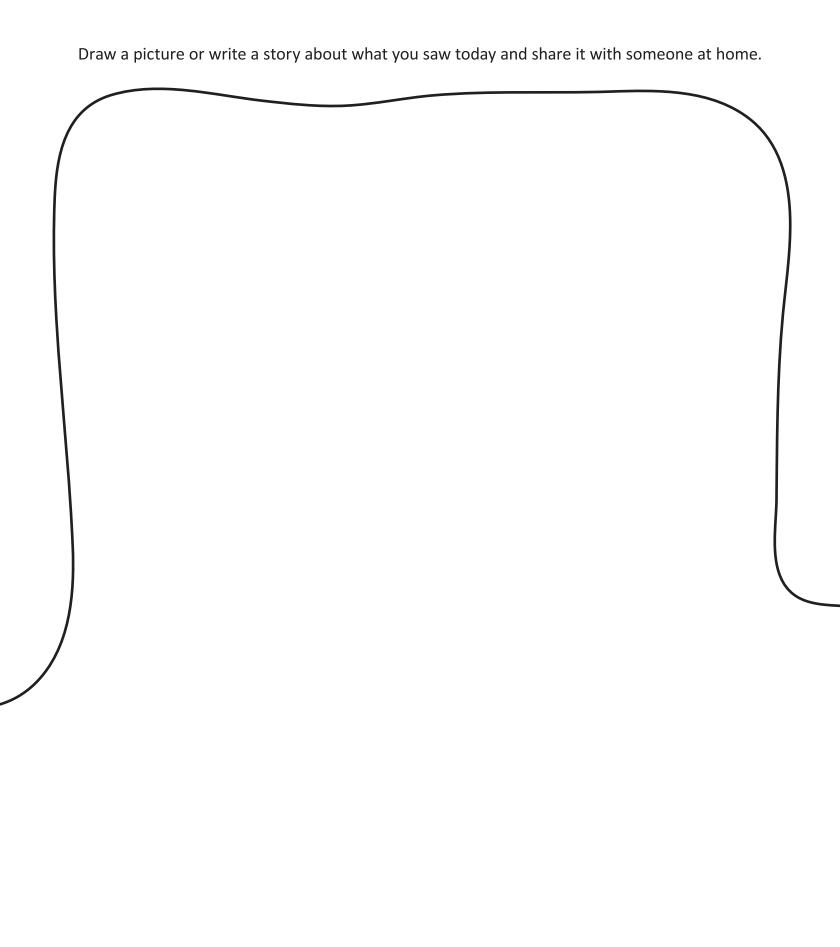
Claiming Space family guide developed by Akane Okoshi and Lara Schilling, and designed by

Pallavi Nemali.

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continuing support of Sally Lucas.

Exhibition organized by the curatorial team at Montalvo's Lucas Artists Program: Donna Conwell, Judy Dennis, and Kelly Sicat.



Thank you for visiting Claiming Space!

This guide is available online at montalvoarts.org/guide

