



Nicholas Pope is a contemporary British sculptor whose work was recently exhibited at the Holburne Museum. In 1977 he started a series of sculptures which make up the *Portraits of a Marriage* collection. This deeply moving group of ten sculptures explore the happiness, tension, joy, anxieties and fears of his and his wife's relationship. They capture different stages of their life together over more than 40 years of marriage. Beginning with *Mr and Mrs Arnolfini* (bottom right) and culminating this year with *Mr and Mrs Pope Dead and Buried* which was finished after his wife's death from terminal cancer. Through his work, Pope conveys emotions through the physical relationships of materials like glass, wood, chalk, textiles and drawing. This series of sculptures each depicts two forms placed in relationship with each other. Each pair uses different materials on different scales. Some fit on table tops, others stand tall on the floor (see opposite and below)



Known for his lumpy forms and expressive use of different materials, Pope explores the emotion within our relationships through his use of forms and where he places them. He experiments with texture, colour, form and the quality of the surface - some are hard (such as reflective glass or aluminium) and others are soft and felted.

The Activity

To explore emotions by looking at different colours, textures, shapes and forms and their relationships to each other using bottles, paints, fabrics and bits and bobs from around your home.



What will I need?



- Bottles or containers from your recycling bin.
- Paints (*left over emulsion or tester pots are good*) or Acrylics
- Scissors or craft knife
- Glue or gluegun if you want to stick things to the outsides
- Any materials you have that might give texture to your pieces, inside or out
- Things you could use might include buttons, pasta, grass cuttings, fabrics, wool, bamboo skewers, drawing pins

NOTE - *Always use sharp or hot tools safely*

How to create your emotional forms

There is no one way to do this but here are some ideas you might like to try

1. Look at the images of Nicholas Pope's sculptures on the previous page, what emotions do they suggest to you? How do they make you feel?
2. Do the shapes look soft and squidgy or do they look like they have hard or sharp edges?
3. Do the colours and textures make you feel calm or agitated, angry or joyful? What do you like or dislike?
4. Think about how you feel right now? How could you express that in colour, form and texture with the materials you have?

Be curious, sit with the images for a while.
Look at things you have at home that you might use to create some emotional forms before you start

5. Look at what's in your recycling box, plastic or glass bottles, empty washing liquid containers - these have lovely sculptural holes for handles - shampoo bottles etc.
6. Could you express two **conflicting emotions** on one piece? One side painted a bright colour the other side a dark colour. Or try two very **different textures** OR contrasting inside and out.
7. If you're feeling spikey and irritable you could spear your piece with bamboo skewers, glue on drawing pins or add sewing pins. You could even poke them through the surface?
8. You might cover a bottle in glue and roll it in **grass cuttings** or cover it with pieces of **cut wool**; **sandpaper**; **wire wool**; a **kitchen scrubber**; the **string bag** from tangerines might have other materials threaded through.
9. What emotions might you represent - **JOY, ANGER, FEAR, CALM, ANXIETY, HAPPINESS, SADNESS, LOVE, WORRY, EXCITEMENT**
10. Have a go, have a play and **HAVE FUN!**



Plastic bottles with card packaging, painted with emulsion tester pots, with added elastic bands



Glass bottle wrapped with scrunched kitchen foil and coloured cellophane



Washing liquid bottle with drawing pin and pin board pin texture pressed in

Share a photo of what you make

Send it to c.dunkley@holburne.org and checkout

Instagram #changing_lives_through_art

to see some of the things people have made this week



Inspiration and Examples

Find some different shaped bottles or containers



See what emotions you can express inside and out



Links to Nicholas Pope's website and other sites about art and emotions -

<https://nicholaspope.co.uk/gallery/>

Using texture - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoOb3JSDAUo>

Using Colour - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z3bqycw/revision/10>

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWW_UbrkBEw

Emotions in Art - <https://artsology.com/artemotion.php>

So how do I express emotion?

We often use phrases that express feelings in a visual or textural way without realising it ...

- She's being so spikey
- He's just a big softie
- I'm all knotted up inside
- I feel like a sack of potatoes
- What a smooth operator
- I'm all over the place
- My head's swimming
- They're so uptight they could snap
- He's hard as nails
- Such a colourful personality
- They're very hard nosed
- I have butterflies in my stomach

CAN YOU THINK OF SOME?

They all create an image of what those feelings mean



Emotive sculpture by other artists



Barbara Hepworth's sculpture reminds me of the washing liquid bottle, she used thread to an another dimension to the feel of the sculpture. She uses a lot of soft curves which convey something warm and welcoming.

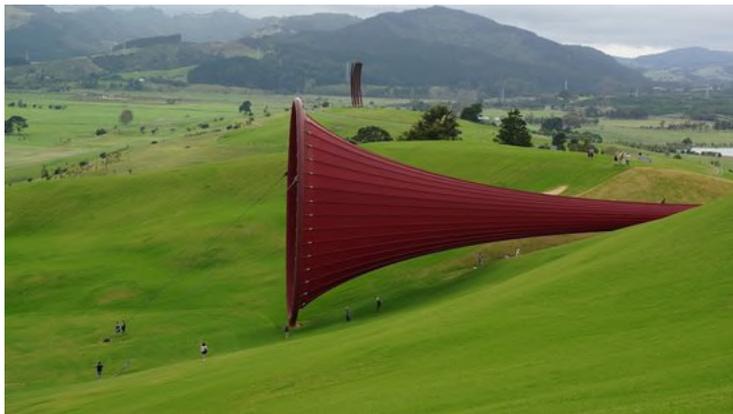
<https://barbarahepworth.org.uk>



Jeff Koons sculpture is often very joyful and playful like this larger than life balloon dog

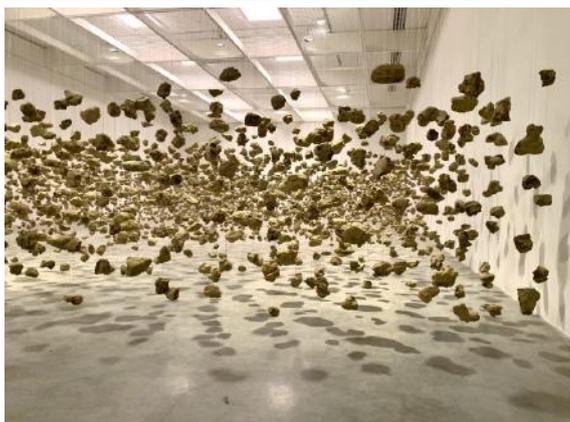
<http://www.jeffkoons.com>

Anish Kapoor creates huge sculptures, this one in the landscape makes you want to shout into it like a trumpet!



Columbian artist Doris Salcedo gives us a smooth, hard exterior that's cracking. Some days can feel like that!

<http://www.art-net.com/artists/doris-salcedo/>



Artist Cornelia Parker has created texture in space with this piece using clay dug from under the Tower or Pisa to stop it collapsing. Conceptual artists can evoke strong emotions in what can seem very simplistic ways.