



Linked Forms

Artist: Richard Hunt, American, b. 1935
Title: Linked Forms, 1999
Media: Welded stainless steel (sanded, burnished, and 3M polished surface)
Dimensions: 11'6" h., 5' w., 5' d.
Owners: Laumier Sculpture Park

Linked Forms

LOOKING AT ART:

- What are your first impressions? How does the sculpture change as you walk around it? Look at the background areas—the open sky and the trees. How does the negative space, the inside spaces, change? What do you think the artist wants us to feel?
- In what ways is **Linked Forms** similar or different from the trees? What lines are straight? Which are curved? How do natural elements such as sunlight and the wind affect it? Do you think Hunt intended it to be outdoors?

SOCIAL STUDIES:

- Links are connections, and **Linked Forms** connects elements that are both similar and dissimilar. Select an area in the world where you would like to see more “links” among the people. Use the ideas in this sculpture as a model for developing your discussion.
- **Linked Forms** is a site-specific sculpture commissioned by Laumeier Sculpture Park. How does an artist work with a patron or institution to create such a work? Make a list of all the issues and concerns that would need to be considered in such a process. Then, imagine that you are the artist and write a one-page monologue reflecting your concerns and solutions.

LANGUAGE ARTS:

- Find a location in your neighborhood for a site-specific sculpture. What locations did you consider? Why did you choose this site? Describe three or four reasons for your selection. Make a list of descriptive words and phrases that you feel should be considered in the design of such a work. Present your ideas to your class.
- Construct a poem that, through its imagery, moves back and forth between the sculpture and the surrounding natural environment. Or, imagine that a bird has just discovered this “magical silver tree” hidden in the forest. Write a poem based on the bird’s experience of this “magical tree.”

SCIENCE, MATH, AND TECHNOLOGY:

- This piece weighs approximately 160 pounds and is suspended more than 50 feet above the ground. What would be the technical challenges in creating such a piece and the issues involved in installing it? Make a list of the problems and then research the answers. Present them to your class.
- What are the properties of stainless steel and how is it manufactured? How do you think this sculpture would hold up in a storm? Explain.

PERFORMING ARTS:

- Action/reaction: Think about and discuss wind force and tree movement. Then divide into small groups. Link arms, hands, and/or legs then, taking turns as the leader, slowly change position. Record the changes with a Polaroid or video camera. Discuss your experiences afterwards.
- Line/shape/sound: The negative space, the shapes between the cascading twisting tubes, is as important as the tubes themselves. Decide upon different sounds to represent both the metal tubes and the spaces. Explore using the sculpture as a score. Read it, play it! Extension: Working in small groups, perform each interpretation as a series.

VISUAL ARTS:

- Reinterpret **Linked Forms** using natural materials—branches, twigs, etc. Focus on the idea of links. Extension: Try the same idea, but with man-made materials. See if you can fit the two works together. Tether and suspend to create a “treed canopy.”
- This piece changes because of natural forces, such as wind or sunlight, and also appears different as we change our position. Make a series of sketches or photographs that explores some of ways this sculpture changes. Organize them into a grid composition.