



Meeting of the Waters

Artist: Carl Milles, Swedish, b.1875, d.1955
Title: Meeting of the Waters, 1931-1939
Media: bronze and granite
Dimensions: 15' h., 280' w., 75' d.
Owner: City of St. Louis

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LOOKING AT ART:

- While viewing **Meeting of the Waters**, list 10 words or phrases that describe the spirit of the sculpture.
- Describe three of the sprites and water spirits in detail. Why do you think Milles choose to depict them in this way?

SOCIAL STUDIES:

- The process of gaining government approval for works of public art is often mired in local politics. Both Carl Milles' **Meeting of the Waters** and **Twain** by Richard Serra created controversy. Research the history of both of these art works in their St. Louis sites.
- Research the public art selection process that is used by local art groups such as Arts in Transit part of Metro and the other groups that sponsored this Kit and that commission public art for the St. Louis metro area. Give a report to the class.

LANGUAGE ARTS:

- Write a dialogue between the central female and male figures in **Meeting of the Waters**.
- Define allegory. Write an allegory using Milles' figures as the characters.

SCIENCE/MATH/TECHNOLOGY:

- Standing on the west end of the fountain and facing east on a sunny day, one can often see a rainbow arching across the fountain. Given these conditions, why does this phenomenon happen?
- The sprays and water features of the fountain are very specific in their trajectories—as deliberate as the figuration and placement of the sprites, water nymphs and the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. How does the plumbing technology of such a fountain function?

PERFORMING ARTS:

- Choreograph a dance called the Meeting of the Waters and put on a performance for the class.
- Find music that reflects the spirit of **Meeting of the Waters**. Listen and discuss. Extension: Have school musical groups such as the wind ensemble, orchestra, band, chamber group or a soloist perform selections from the above music.

ART PROJECT IDEAS:

- Using the idea of a “meeting of the waters,” design a logo for a new theme park by that name to be located in the Missouri River bottoms.
- Design an entirely new fountain for the same location called the **Meeting of the Waters**.