



Youth

Artist: Todd Frahm, American, b. 1976
Title: Youth, 2002
Media: Bedford Limestone
Dimensions: 5' h., 4' w., 4' d.
Owner: Commissioned by the Clayton Art Commission, funded by the Clayton Parks Commission

Youth

LOOKING AT ART:

- Work in pairs. With eyes closed one person carefully moves his hands over the surface of the sculpture describing the texture, form and relative size of the piece in detail to his partner, who writes down the comments. Reverse roles performing the same exercise, this time examining a real acorn. Compare and discuss the difference in the observations.
- While observing the sculpture in its setting, make a list of words and phrases describing your initial reactions.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

- There are many public parks in the St. Louis area. Research the history behind the establishment of three of these parks and give a report.
- Research the ways in which Native Americans have used acorns. Make a chart showing the various uses and find a recipe using acorns that you prepare and serve to the class.

LANGUAGE ARTS:

- Write a dialogue between a full-grown oak tree and a newly fallen acorn. Give each character a name. Turn your dialogue into a rap.
- Following a site visit, write from the point of view of the sculpture—“Twenty-Four Hours in Wydown Park”.

SCIENCE/MATH /TECHNOLOGY:

- Research the life cycle of the oak from an acorn to a tree. Make a poster to illustrate.
- Bedford Limestone was formed during the Mississippian Period 320-360 years ago. Research the natural geological process involved in forming Bedford Limestone. Write several paragraphs describing the process. Use the dimensions given for **Youth** and based on your research and knowledge of geometry estimate the weight of this piece.

PERFORMING ARTS:

- Using tag board, cut out the silhouettes of an oak tree and an acorn. Use colored markers for detail and attach a wooden dowel rod to one side of each to make a puppet. Take turns being the voice of the acorn or the tree as they discuss the life process of falling from a tree, finding a way into the ground and eventually growing into a mature oak. This could be a comic scene.
- Take the voice of a squirrel that finds a giant acorn. Form groups of two. Each twosome writes a song in the voice of this acorn (could be a children’s song). Perform the songs for the class, perhaps using percussive instruments and voices.

ART PROJECT IDEAS:

- Form plaster cubes, then design and carve a nut (peanut, walnut, cashew, Brazil nut, etc.) of your choice from the three-dimensional cube. Display them as a collection along with drawings of the mature trees or shrubs from which they fell.
- Artists such as Andy Goldsworthy use natural forms in very different ways. Research his work, then use oak leaves to make a temporary installation. Photograph the installation as it deteriorates over time.