



Part of Yorkshire Sculpture International
22 June 2019–5 January 2020
Underground Gallery and Open Air

DAVID SMITH

Sculpture 1932-1965



DRAWING TOGETHER

This exhibition celebrates the artwork of sculptor David Smith from the United States of America. He was a pioneer who was the first known artist in the USA to weld steel together to make sculptures. In this exhibition there are works made over 40 years starting with David Smith's early experimental works and leading to his large scale, monumental sculptures.

David Smith's sculptures are intricate with clear lines and shapes that you can follow. He was imaginative at using metal as a drawing tool.

Draw together to discover more about his work and ideas. Feel free to ask Gallery Assistants questions about his work.



GALLERY ONE

In the first gallery space there are drawings and sculptures that represent heads, figures and landscapes. Look at the lines and marks on David Smith's drawings.

- Now draw. Think about how you can capture the energy of his marks and lines.
- What other marks could you add to the drawing? Think about colour. Make the drawing your own.

Find the sculpture titled 'Hudson River Landscape'. David Smith often travelled alongside the Hudson river and looked at the landscape.

- Follow the lines. What do you see in the shapes he created?
- Draw the sculpture noticing the shapes that could be train tracks, mountains, the horizon and bends in the river. Feel free to add your own ideas to the drawing about the places he saw.
- Draw a journey you often take. Be inspired by David Smith and draw the things that interest you rather than copying what you see.
- If you were to make your drawing into a sculpture what material would you use? Why? How would your sculpture change if it was made out of a different material?

- Draw one of the sculptures that looks like a face. Spot all the different shapes. Think about how your drawing can show the geometry and personality of the head.
- Make your own face drawing inspired by David Smith, be as imaginative as you can be.

GALLERY TWO

Look closely at three different sculptures. Pick your favourite.

- What surfaces and patterns do you see? Are they smooth, rough or shiny? Work with someone in your group to draw the different textures you can see.
- Experiment with your pencils to see how many different types of marks you can create together.

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GALLERY THREE

Steel is a stubborn material. David Smith has created sculpture that is delicate as well as strong.

- Choose a sculpture that has graceful shapes. Use your finger in the air to follow these lines and shapes.
- Now draw: challenge yourself to keep your pencil on the paper and do a continuous line drawing.

Think about how David Smith used steel to create shapes.

- Draw your own graceful flowing sculpture.
- Challenge yourself to use the hand you don't normally use. What do you notice?

Think about how your marks can create lightness, weight, space and air.

- With your pencil, press hard and soft then move slowly and quickly.

Look for and find spaces in the sculptures that you can see through.

- Draw these spaces. Create new sculptures that are inspired by these shapes.

Towards the end of David Smith's life, he was making sculptures in large scale. Choose an artwork that you think is very large.

- Make a drawing of a section of the artwork. Look carefully to capture detail.

Design your own drawing challenges and share your results with us using #YSPFamily

Now you have studied some sculptures:

- Shut your eyes and draw a sculpture from memory. What do you notice?
- With your eyes open, fill your page with colours to add pattern and texture.