



One of the newest sculptures at the National Gallery of Art can be seen twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It is over thirty feet high and weighs twenty-thousand pounds.

Prinz Friedrich von Homburg: Ein Schauspiel, 3x is located on Third Street, NW between Pennsylvania and Independence Avenues. It is so big you can see it from the Capitol.



Artist Frank Stella at the installation of his sculpture.



1 What's that title again?

Prinz Friedrich von Homburg: Ein Schauspiel, 3x is a German name. Translated into English, the title would be "Prince Frederick of Homburg: A Play, 3x." The artist chose a German title because it relates to a hundred-year-old German play *The Prince of Homburg*. In this story, a young prince remains true to his ideals, even when threatened, and, in the end, the prince triumphs. The artist, Frank Stella, has also made sculpture inspired by Herman Melville's book *Moby Dick*. Are there any books that you admire? Have you ever made pictures about your favorite stories?

The last part of the sculpture's title, 3x, refers to its size. It is three times larger than the original model, called a maquette.



A little prince
Hans Holbein, the Younger,
Edward VI as a Child (detail),
probably 1538. National Gallery
of Art, Andrew W. Mellon
Collection

2 It doesn't look like a prince (or a play for that matter), so what's it about?

Take a good look at the sculpture, using the photographs provided (or walk around the sculpture in real life, which is even better). What textures and shapes do you see? How does the sculpture change as you look at it from different angles?

This kind of art is called *abstract*. It is about ideas, thoughts, feelings, and shapes, and the way all of these elements work together to create the whole sculpture.

4

How does a sculpture larger than a tyrannosaurus rex find its way to the East Building lawn of the National Gallery of Art?

First, it traveled in six large trucks on a ten-hour journey from New York state to Washington, D.C. Then, many workers (such as welders) and machines (such as large cranes and hydraulic lifts) put together all of the pieces. Frank Stella watched over the big project of assembling the sculpture. From start to finish the sculpture took three years to make.

A lot of hard work went into bringing this sculpture to the Gallery. We are glad that it is here to stay!



Rigging, welding, lifting

3

What does this sculpture remind you of?

The white spiraling shapes were inspired by a Styrofoam hat given to the artist by his children. According to Stella, the steel cables that anchor the forms in place resemble a hand that holds something in its grasp.

5

Frank Stella described this sculpture as a “whirlwind held down by a storm.” How would you describe it?

Circle your answers below or make up your own list of words.



Check out these books on sculpture, form, and shape. They can be found in the Gallery's Children's Shop located on the concourse level or at your local library or bookstore.

My Shapes/Mis Formas

by Rebecca Emberley
Baby to preschool

Explore the world of shapes in both English and Spanish. This colorful board book presents a variety of bright, bold shapes that form familiar objects.

Norman the Doorman

by Don Freeman
Ages 4 to 8

Meet Norman the mouse, who is both a doorman and a sculptor. Will Norman win the art contest with his new creation made of old mousetraps? Find out in this classic tale set in an art museum.

Historic Monuments: The Civil War's 54th Massachusetts Regiment—The Shaw Memorial

by Julia Hargrove,
illustrated by Gary Mohrman
Ages 9 and up

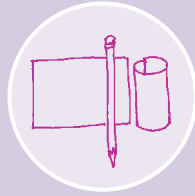
Robert Gould Shaw and the Fifty-fourth regiment of African-American soldiers played an important role in Civil War history. Learn about their story from original documents and challenging activities.

trythis!

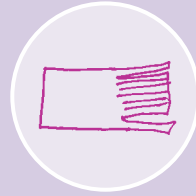
activity 1

Getting to the Third Dimension

Painting has two dimensions—height and width. Sculpture has three dimensions—height, width, and depth. It's not hard to turn a flat (two-dimensional) piece of paper into three-dimensional sculpture. Here are a few ideas.



3 Rolling a strip of paper will create curls. You can curl paper in several directions. Wrap strips of paper around a pencil or tube shape. The smaller the object, the tighter the curl.



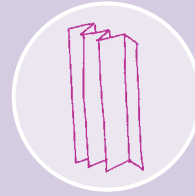
4 Cut paper to create fringe or ragged edges.



1 Just by folding or bending a piece of paper, you have moved it into the third dimension.



2 Crumpling paper counts, too.



5 Pleat paper into fan shapes or braid strips of paper to give it form and strength.



6 Use tabs or small, cut-up rectangles of paper as connectors. Glue or tape the tips of tabs to the pieces you are joining together.

activity 2

Off the Wall Painting

When visiting the National Gallery of Art, you will see many works of art by Frank Stella that combine techniques from both painting and sculpture.

For this project you will need:

- thick paper, such as index card stock or cardboard, to cut into shapes
- pencils, scissors, glue, tape
- paints, glitter glue, sequins, patterned papers, or other fun things for decorating the shapes
- a large piece of cardboard to use as a base

1 From thick paper, cut shapes of all different sizes and varieties. Consider using some of the three-dimensional techniques listed above. If you have a theme in mind, like the sea, cars, music, or a story, think about shapes that remind you of that theme.

2 Paint the individual shapes different colors and let them dry.

3 Paint the cardboard base and let it dry.

4 Once dry, decorate the shapes with interesting color combinations and designs.

5 Arrange and assemble the painted pieces on the base and attach them with glue or tape. Make sure that some shapes stick out from the base. Overlapping, bending, and layering the shapes will give your sculpture more depth. You can also use tabs to attach the pieces.

6 When you are done, hang your artwork like a painting—an “off the wall” painting.

To create a freestanding sculpture like Prinz Friedrich von Homburg: Ein Schauspiel, 3x, lay your base flat on the table and build your sculpture upwards. For added strength, use wire, pipe cleaners, sticks, or twigs.

For additional activities and information about Frank Stella and his art go to <http://www.nga.gov/kids/stella/stella1.htm>.