Welcome to the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. There are about 60 sculptures in the Garden, so you may not have time to see all of them today. Don’t worry, though, this self-guided tour focuses on a few sculptures that will give you a good idea of the range of art we have here in the Garden.

When you arrive at each stop on the tour, we recommend that you look at the sculpture before reading any background information. Often, you can learn a lot about a sculpture just by looking at it. The background information that we provide will help you get to know the sculpture better. By the end of your visit, you may even have a sculpture or two that you’ll love and remember for years to come.

Let’s get started!

This tour starts at the main entrance to the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden (1), right across the street from the entrance to the Walker Art Center building.

← Follow this map and find your first stop.

1 George Segal, Walking Man, 1988
2 Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, Spoonbridge and Cherry, 1985-88
4 Katharina Fritsch, Hahn (Cock), 2013/2016
5 Eva Rothschild, Empire, 2011
6 James Turrell, Sky Pesher 2005, 2005
Stop 1

George Segal, Walking Man, 1988

This sculpture was cast from a real person. The artist, George Segal, would cover the model with wet plaster, the material that is sometimes used to make the walls of a house. When the plaster dried, he would carefully remove the hard plaster mold, which had dried in the exact shape of the model. He then filled the mold with hot, liquid bronze. When the bronze cooled, it hardened into the sculpture you see here. Segal loved to create sculptures of ordinary people—he was less interested in celebrities or other famous figures.

Ask

Who do you think this man might be?

What do you think he is doing?

Where do you think he is going?

Make

Now imagine what this man might be thinking. Write a few words or sentences to reflect his thoughts in the thought bubble below.
Stop 2


Claes Oldenburg is an artist who is best known for his enormous sculptures of ordinary objects. In the 1980s, around the time when construction began on the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, the Walker Art Center asked Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, his wife and artistic partner, to design a fountain sculpture that would serve as the centerpiece of the new Garden. Both were known for their enormous sculptures of ordinary objects.

**Ask**

How big is it really? Guess how much the spoon and cherry weigh. (Find the answer at the bottom of this page.)

Why do you think they used a spoon instead of a fork?

Oldenburg and van Bruggen thought the sculpture looked like many other things: a Viking ship and a duck bobbing, for instance.

What else does the sculpture remind you of?

**Make**

This sculpture is made up of two objects that are easy for us to recognize: a cherry and a spoon.

Think about your daily life. What objects do you use most often? What foods do you eat? Choose two of these things and design your own sculpture. Draw a model here:

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Answer: The spoon weighs 5,800 pounds and the cherry weighs 1,200 pounds.

Robert Indiana’s *Love* sculpture is his most famous work of art. He has made many of these sculptures, and they have been displayed in different cities around the world, including Philadelphia, London, New York, and Tokyo. Sometimes he paints the sculptures in one solid color, and at other times he paints them two or more colors. The Walker’s version is made of a special type of steel that is meant to look rusty but does not need paint.

**Ask**

Millions of people around the world have taken photos of Indiana’s *Love* sculptures. *Why do you think they are so popular?*

**Make**

Indiana’s sculpture fits perfectly into a square: two letters on top and two on the bottom—all the same width and height. Draw your own shape here and fit your emotion word into the shape like Indiana did. You may need to move the letters around to make them fit (Indiana tilted the O in love sideways, for example).

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Think of an emotion (sadness, joy, anger) and write it here:

Imagine if Robert Indiana used this word for his sculpture instead of “Love.” *How would it change the meaning of the artwork? How do you think people would react to it?*
Stop 4


Katharina Fritsch is another sculptor who uses everyday things as the subjects of her sculptures. She changes their size, color, and materials to make them look unique and surprising. The artist's largest public art piece to be housed in the U.S. museum collection, *Hahn (Cock)*, is a monumental 20-foot-tall rooster in ultramarine blue. It is a playful piece that blurs the boundaries between the ordinary and the deeply symbolic.

**Ask**

What kind of animal is this? If you could pick a different animal, what would you pick and why?

Why do you think it is blue?

If you could pick another color for it, what would it be and why?

**Make**

Katharina Fritsch often uses stories from mythology and fairy tales as inspiration for her sculptures. Your challenge is to use this sculpture as an inspiration for your own story. Use the following sentence as the beginning of your story, and then write the rest. (Alternative option: have kids work in groups to come up with a story together. Assign one person to write it down).

“From a very young age, the rooster knew he was different from his other bird friends . . .

© Katharina Fritsch / Artist Rights Society (ARS), New York / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn / Courtesy Matthew Marks Gallery   Photo: Andrei Dureika
Stop 5

Eva Rothschild, *Empire*, 2011

Eva Rothschild is known for her large geometric sculptures. She uses black paint on almost all her artwork and often includes red and green paint, as she does in this sculpture. Rothschild was born in Dublin, Ireland, and she now lives and works in London, England. She originally made this sculpture for Central Park in New York City in 2011. It came to Minneapolis in 2015.

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**Ask**

First, look at this sculpture for a few seconds. Then, turn around so that you’re no longer facing it. Without looking, try to remember the number of times this sculpture touches the ground. Then, turn around and count to see if you were right.

Unlike the other sculptures on this tour, this sculpture is an “abstract” work of art. Abstract art is a type of art that uses geometry, lines, and colors but does not usually look like a specific object or person. Even though it does not look like a real thing or person, it often reminds us of real things.

What does this sculpture remind you of?

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**Make**

If you have time, try to find other sculptures that are abstract. List them here.

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<th>Title</th>
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Stop 6


This room, created by artist James Turrell, is a space that is meant to be relaxing. He wants visitors to come in, sit, and look up at the sky through the 16 × 16-foot square in the ceiling.

Sit quietly for a moment and look up at the sky. If it is sunny today, imagine what this room would be like on a cloudy day. If it is cloudy, imagine what it would be like if it were sunny.

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**Ask**

What do you notice as you sit in this space?

How is this sculpture different from other sculptures you saw today?

As you look up, think of one word to describe how you feel. If you are with a group of people, everyone can share their words.

Now, think about everything you saw and did today at the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

What are some things you learned about sculpture? If you had to describe sculpture to someone in one word, what word would you choose?

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**Make**

Try to write a definition of sculpture:

Sculpture is .....................................................

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