



Four Questions:....and why?

1. Who do you think this woman might be?
2. Do you think she is fiercely walking away from something? Or is she walking along slowly and thoughtfully? Why?
3. How would you describe her facial expression?
4. How has the artist suggested the woman's body form in this structure? Suggest some clues.



**Dame Elisabeth Frink** (1930-1975), was very interested in showing 'God's creatures'. Her main themes were of animal, birds and humans (mostly male). She tried to show God's 'divineness' in his creations. Her works focus on the emotional and physical aspects of these creatures. She really liked to show the good and bad sides of their nature. Sometimes, her sculpture shows the 'inhumanity' of mankind.

Frink's father was an army officer and when she was little, she was greatly affected by living through the Second World War. Once, as a young child she had to shelter in a hedgerow from machine gun fire of a German fighter plane, flying over her home. This may have influenced her early artworks which often showed wounded birds or men falling.

Frink did many drawings, etchings and prints. But she is best known for her large-scale bronze outdoor sculptures, often seen in public places like the grounds of Salisbury Cathedral.

Frink used a 'cut and worked surface' technique to make her sculptures. First, she made a framework (*armature*) to shape the figure. Then she added plaster and a wrapping material covering to mould the body. Lastly, she added more plaster on top of this mesh or 'wrap'. She used a *chisel blade* (a cutting tool) as well as a *surform* (metal tool like a food grater) to cut and shape the moulding and create the detail in her work. Her sculptures are interesting to feel because they have rough, textured surface. Can you see the material 'wrap' that shows through on this statue?

**Drawing Activity:**

1. With a pen and paper - draw a 'stick' figure. Using these lines as the outline structure, add softer, rounded shapes to 'mould' or add to the figure, to make it look more realistic or human-like.

**Talking Activity: 'Reach for the stars!'**

1. In your group, choose someone to act out the woman's way of walking. Now, try it with different emotions, like being 'angry', 'sad', 'quiet' or 'brave' etc. Let the group guess what the actor is trying to show by their way of walking. Take turns acting out different ways.

By Curious Curators 2020