

Lynn Chadwick: *Sitting Couple on a Bench*, 1990
Stainless steel



Four Questions:

1. Who do you think these people are?
2. What different shapes can you see?
3. Can you see any of the same shapes in Salisbury Cathedral's architecture? Compare and name them.
4. Why do you think it is made of stainless steel? How different would it look if it was rusty or coloured?

Lynn Chadwick (1914-2003) always made sculptures of human, insect and animal figures but he never gave them faces. He used geometrical shapes to describe the figures and their relationships to each other. His combination of using figures and shapes identified him as a semi-abstract artist. He trained as an architect before becoming an artist and his works retain the architectural concerns of line, weight, form, balance and gravity. He is known for his welding and forging process, attaching metal sheets to iron rod armatures (frameworks) in making his sculptures.

Chadwick liked to work with bronze as well as flat or shiny surfaces, as here. In this stainless steel, he makes use of the surrounding light and reflective qualities. Chadwick preferred not to make sketches before creating his sculptures but to improvise, welding the shapes together first in order to create the figures. Chadwick was a sculptor but preferred to call himself a 'constructor' rather than a carver or moulder of sculpture!

Drawing Activity: Using pencils and coloured crayons

1. Draw a figure of a person or an animal using only two different kinds of shapes.
2. Colour in or decorate some of the shapes in your drawings, leave some blank.

Talking Activity:

1. If the artist wanted to make a sculpture of you, how would you like to be shown?
Sitting, running, playing football, dancing?

By Curious Curators 2020