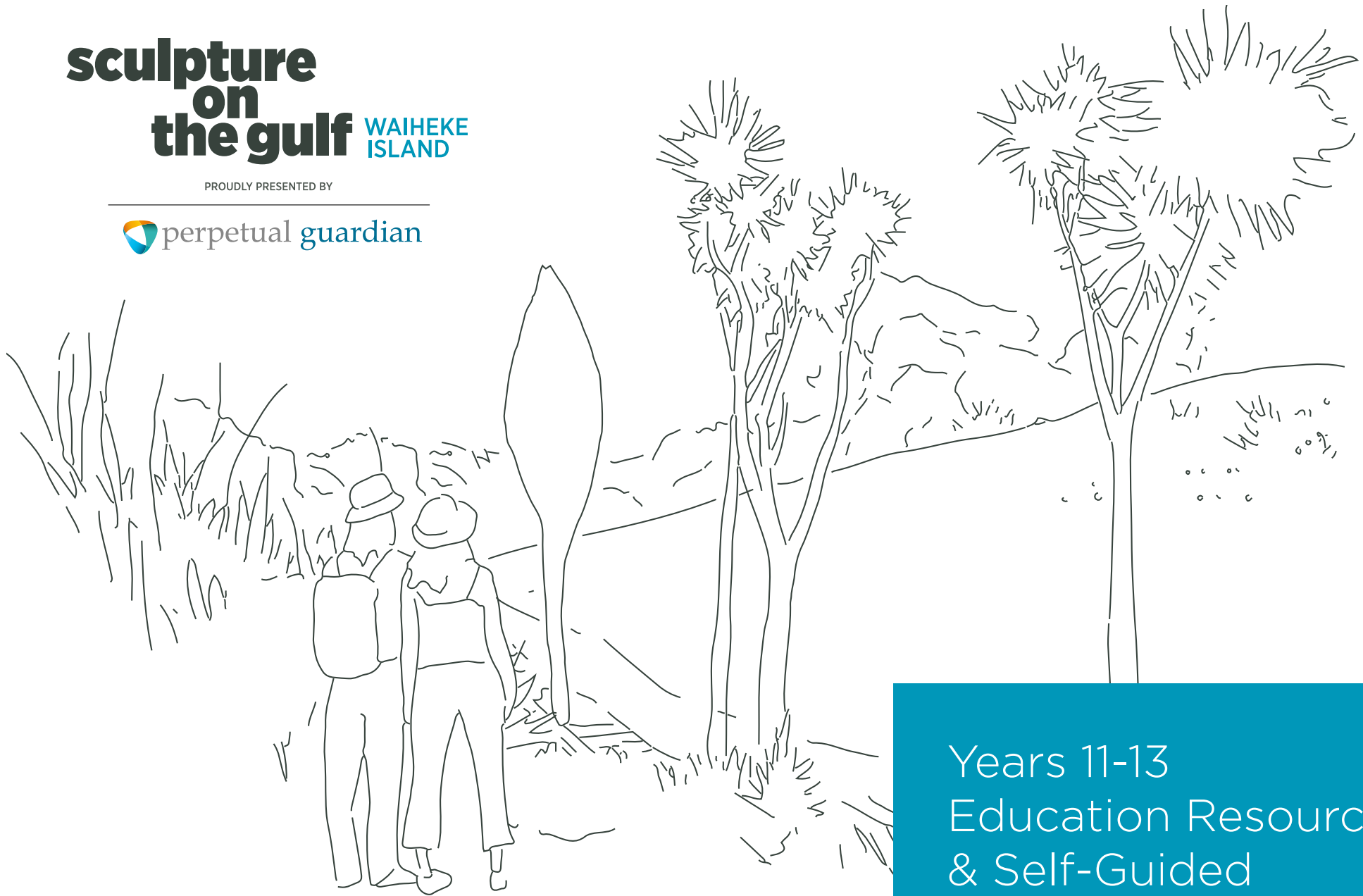


sculpture on the gulf

WAIHEKE
ISLAND

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Years 11-13
Education Resource
& Self-Guided
Worksheet

This education resource has been designed for you to thoughtfully engage with sculptures during your visit to Waiheke island.

Overview

Contemporary Aotearoa/NZ sculpture encompasses installation, environments, performance, soundscapes, three-dimensional objects and audience participation. In this exhibition, artists draw on a range of materials, both ephemeral and permanent, and have engaged with a diverse range of technologies/processes to create their sculptures, from the handcrafted to factory-fabricated.



Matiatia Bay and its coastal walkway, the site for this exhibition, has strong meanings and associations for all who have come to call the island home. Particularly for local Māori, whose ancestors are buried here, and remnants of their early settlement can not only still be seen in the landscape but permeate deep into the ground. This rich cultural overlay, or korowai (cloak), is of both a contemporary and historic nature and through an awareness of these places, we are all able to gain a deeper understanding of the significance of this land.

Key Themes in Sculpture on the Gulf

We have used the Mauri Model assessment framework to develop the following themes:

Mauri (integrity) of

- the environment
- cultural identity
- community
- whanau

Your self-guided worksheet will apply these themes throughout the questions and activities.

These themes will allow you to look at the sculptures from different perspectives and further understand their meaning. This self-guided worksheet will use these themes in the following activities and prompt you to think deeper about sculpture in the landscape.

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Environment - Integrity of the ecosystem

You will encounter a number of works that engage with ideas of landscape and environment. They traverse notions of environmental decline, climate change, human effect and future scenarios.

Unlike sculptures inside galleries, these works can directly interact with their subject matter, and comment on its surrounds.

Certain sculptures are directly linked to the Waiheke landscape and environment, and some are engaged in the broader global conversation.

Some questions that these sculptures may ask of you, or that may help you to think about their relationship to the environment are as follows:

- What components of the sculpture encourage you to become aware of the environment?
- Some sculptures use their title, materials and site to tell a story. How is this particularly relevant in an outdoors context when speaking about environmental issues?
- Do you think you would read these sculptures differently if they were in a gallery for example? Would they still have the ability to tell the same story?
- Why do you think so many artists are using their practice to talk about environmental issues? How do you think it is helpful, or not?



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Cultural Wellbeing - Integrity of cultural identity

This land holds a powerful and significant history for Māori, and there are sculptures along the walkway that consciously engage with the reasons why this place is of cultural significance.

The stories that these works tell are of colonisation, history, genealogy and cultural representation, allowing this landscape to tell its story whilst maintaining and upholding the integrity of cultural identity. It is with this knowledge that we ask of you to be respectful, insightful and aware when on this walkway. We all hold our own cultural identity and engage with this in different ways. Amongst the sculptures, there are multiple artists exploring their own identity and how they fit into the context of Aotearoa New Zealand as a place of diverse cultural heritage and practices.

Some questions that these sculptures may ask of you, or that may help you to think about their relationship to cultural wellbeing are as follows:

- What kind of materials or shapes in these works explore cultural integrity? Are they familiar to you? Why do you think the artist has chosen to explore them in this context?
- How do these works use site as a prompt for thinking about identity? Why do you think they have done that?
- Some works draw on cultural histories to tell their story. Why is this important and how do these stories connect us to today?
- There is a work that is particularly site specific. Why do you think this site has been chosen for this piece and how might this be related to cultural identity?



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Community - Social wellbeing

Sculptures share our space which make them inherently social; we interact with their physical being as we move around or through it, study it or sometimes, listen to it. Some sculptures ask us to participate, and without an audience, they wouldn't reach their full potential. There are sculptures amongst this event which ask us questions surrounding interactivity and connectivity, function and failure, context, and process and outcome. They invite the hands, eyes, and ears of others to partake in the active process of the works and prompt us to think about the potential of sculpture and where it lies within our everyday.

Some questions that these sculptures may ask of you, or that may help you to think about the ways in which they explore community are as follows:

- Does the sculpture actively invite your participation? In what ways does this participation change its process?
- Does the sculpture encourage social experiences? How does it do this and why would this be the artists intention?
- Does the sculpture ask you to think about process? Why do you think an artist would make a work that is not entirely based on outcome?
- Does the sculpture affect one of your senses? How might this be used to connect you to not only the work but the environment and its people?



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Whanau - Economic wellbeing

Using the term economic creatively, we have extended it to think about value and the nature of exchange. In the realm of sculpture, this can be applied to ideas surrounding form and material and how these concepts can be used to tell stories. These sculptures could get you thinking about their formal qualities and the ways artists engage with ideas surrounding form differently. Some examples of form that you may encounter on the walkway are three-dimensional objects, architecture, sound, and installation (separate components that make a whole). All artists take basic materials and transform them; they are translating the primary value of the material and injecting it with a symbolic meaning through the artist's creative process. These symbols are then exchanged with the audience and provide clues to further understand the artist's intention.

Some questions that these sculptures may ask of you, or that may help you to think about the ways in which they explore whanau are as follows:

- Do all sculptures use form as a key component to convey its meaning? How so?
- How can form elaborate on the sculpture's meaning? Can sculptural forms manipulate space? How and why would they do this?
- How can the value of a sculpture's form and material be changed between different contexts?
- Do any sculptures use symbols and signals to convey meaning? How are these used and why?
- Do you recognise the material used in the sculpture? How has the artist transformed it in their process?



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Choose a sculpture that uses subject, object and setting and identify the following:

What parts of the sculpture give you clues about the subject?

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How does the object reflect the idea of the subject?

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What connection can be made between the context and the object?

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Key to your understanding of sculpture will be the interpreting and connecting of subject, object and context.

Subject can be identified through the sculpture's title, knowledge of the artists practice, or in their artist statement.

Object can be found in the sculpture's physical components, the materials, form, shape, scale.

Context is the circumstances that form the setting of the sculpture, it may be the sculpture's particular site, the way the sculpture has been installed, how it has been made to engage with.

Using your reflections, what story is the artist trying to tell you? If you separated each of these components, how would the story differ?

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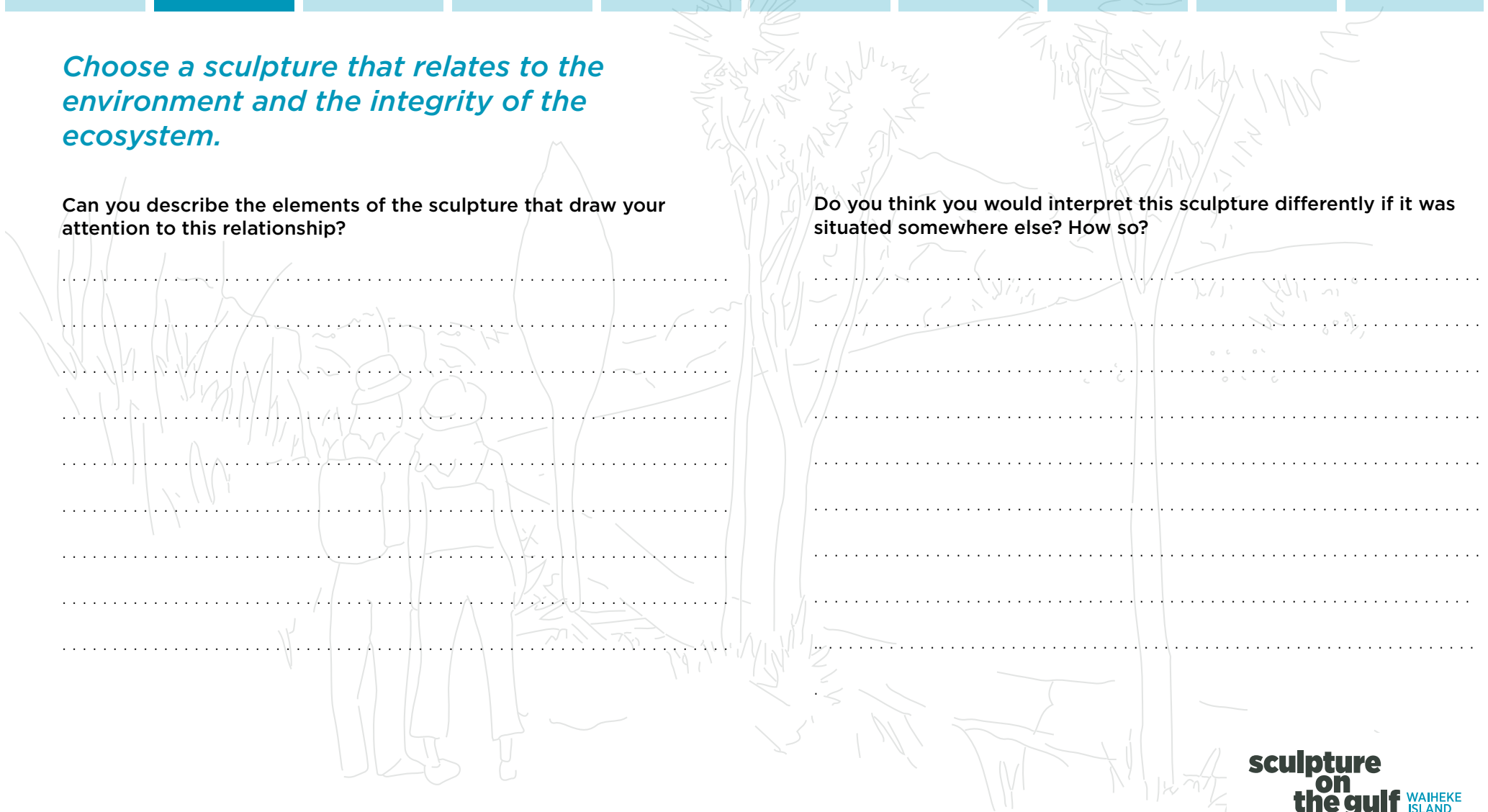
Task 9

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Choose a sculpture that relates to the environment and the integrity of the ecosystem.

Can you describe the elements of the sculpture that draw your attention to this relationship?

Do you think you would interpret this sculpture differently if it was situated somewhere else? How so?



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Choose a sculpture that relates to ideas of cultural identity.

What kind of materials or shapes in this sculpture explore cultural identity?

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How do you think making work about cultural identity is helpful?

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Are they familiar to you? Why?

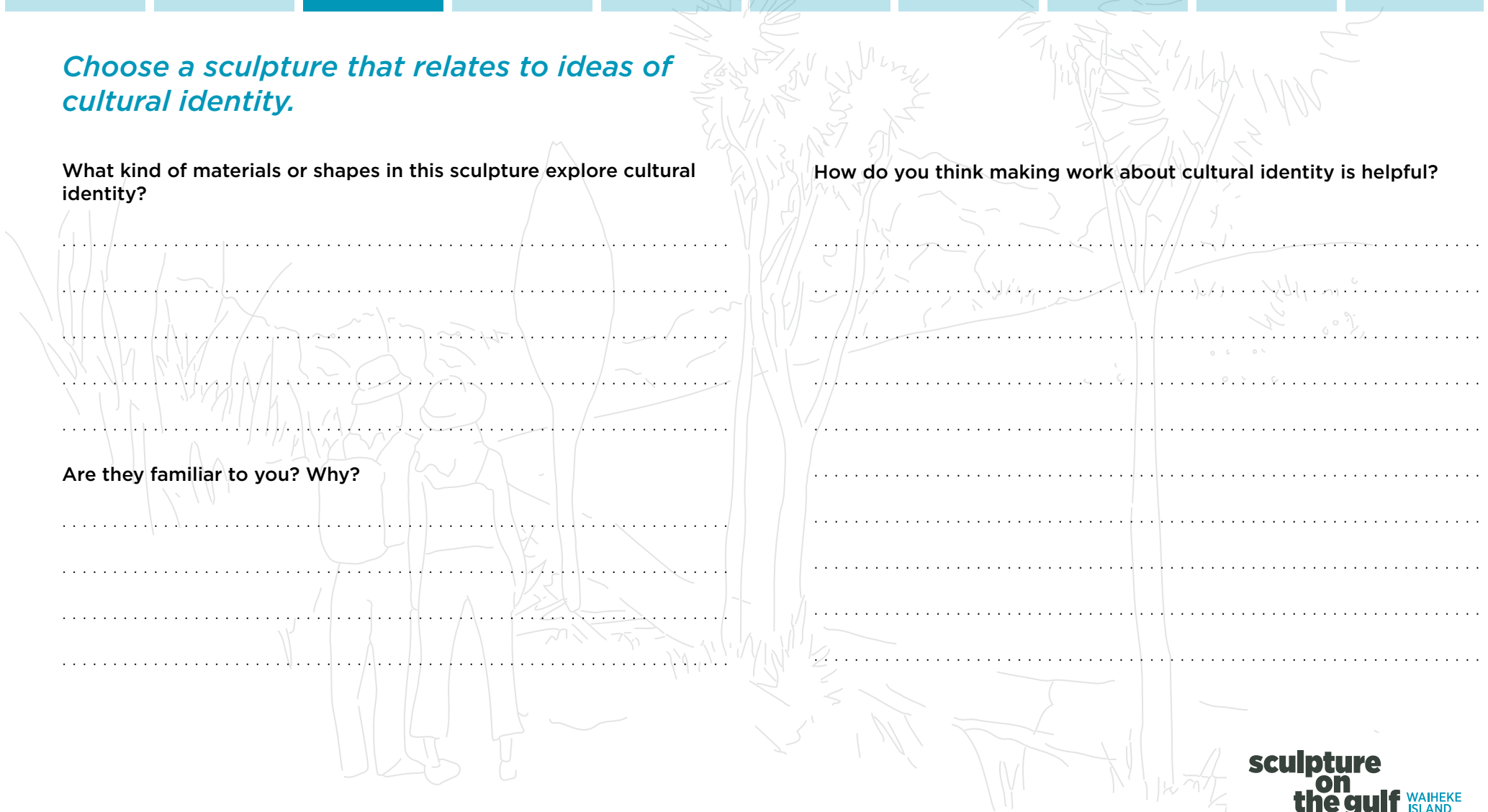
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Choose a sculpture that relates to ideas of economic wellbeing.

How has this artist used form to communicate meaning?

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What are some of the specific elements of the sculpture's form that allude to its meaning? Why do you think this?

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Do you recognise any materials used in the sculpture? How has the artist transformed it in the process of making the sculpture?

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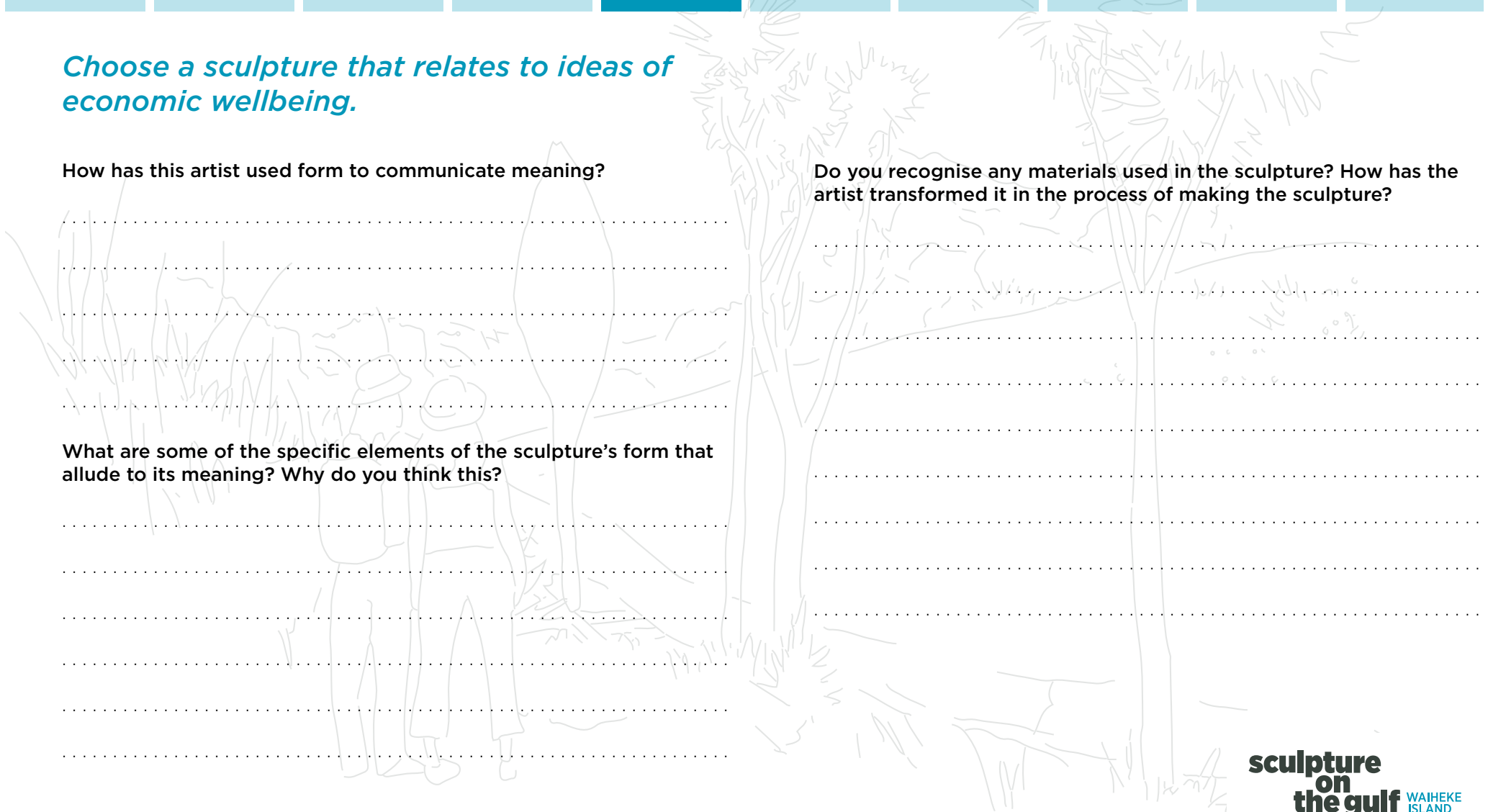
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Investigate and analyse a sculpture of your choice.

Think about the reasons that encouraged you to make your decision. By using conceptual and contextual elements to deconstruct the sculpture, you can gain a closer look.

Materials

What materials do you recognise in this sculpture? What do these materials usually remind you of?

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Scale

Is the sculpture proportionate to its surroundings?

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How does the scale affect the way you interact with the sculpture? . .

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Texture

How would this sculpture feel to touch?

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Colour

What are the most dominant colours? What mood or feeling do the colours give you?

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Meaning and Symbols

How does the title help you interpret the work?

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Does the sculpture contain any recognisable symbols? What do they remind you of?

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Do any of the other elements discussed on this worksheet give you an idea of the artist's intended meaning?

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Continued

Composition

Is your sculpture balanced or asymmetrical? Angular or curved?
Is there a focal point?

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How does the composition change depending on your position?

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Other elements:

e.g. sound, movement, reflections, shadows, etc.

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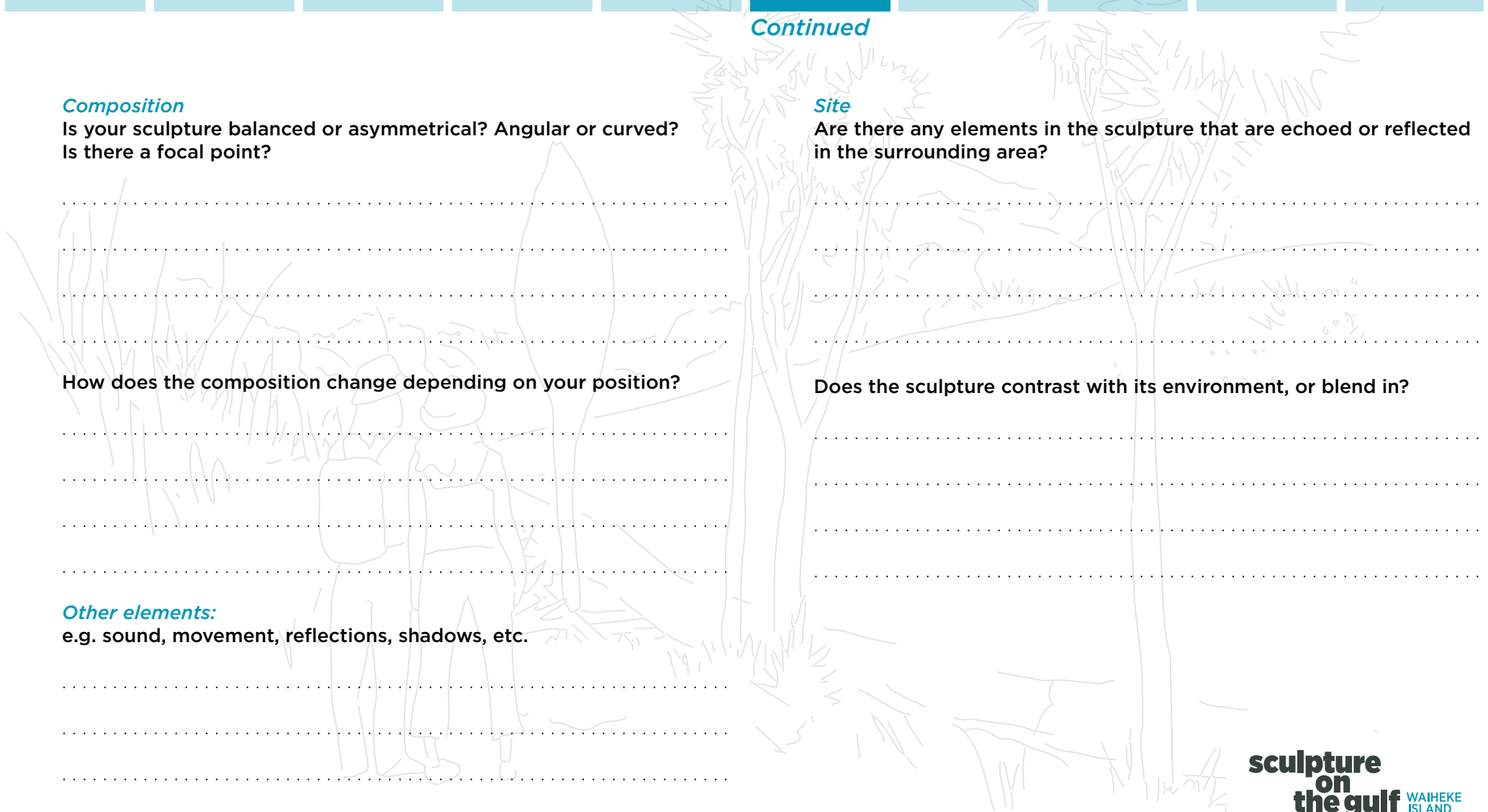
Site

Are there any elements in the sculpture that are echoed or reflected in the surrounding area?

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Does the sculpture contrast with its environment, or blend in?

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Written response:

Look closely at a sculpture of your choice and begin to think about what adjectives you would use to describe it.

Circle seven words below that best fit your initial response:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Magical | Aggressive | Provocative | Rhythmic |
| Detailed | Playful | Abstract | Futuristic |
| Organic | Comforting | Prompting | Engaging |
| Rigid | Confrontational | Abstract | Intense |
| Overwhelming | Effortless | Chaotic | Mysterious |
| Realistic | Minimal | | |

Add two of your own describing words:

Narrow your selection of words down to **THREE and explain your choice using the following questions:**

- Do your selected words describe what the sculpture looks like and/or what you think the sculpture represents?

- Do your selected words describe how it makes you feel and/or how it relates to the surrounding environment?

- Do you think that using language to describe visual objects helps to extend your understanding of the sculptures?

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Sketch a sculpture

Draw a sculpture of your choice from four different angles. As you sketch, begin to notice what new details, textures, materials or movement you can see from each different perspective.

Once finished, reflect on the experience:

What new things about the sculpture did you notice as you moved around it?

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End of walk question:

If you could have chosen one extra theme for this sculpture walk, what would it have been and why?

What parts of this visit helped to you expand the way you think about sculpture?



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