FIGURE OF STAINLESS STEEL

Tom Friedman is a conceptual artist, meaning he is interested in sharing his ideas and does not restrict himself to a single medium when creating. His works of art range in scale, and often incorporate single-use materials such as toothpaste, aluminum foil, chewing gum, or aspirin. Installed in April 2015, *Looking Up* is a huge stainless steel sculpture that stands prominently on the upper grounds of Laguna Gloria. Gazing towards the infinite sky above, this figure towers at 33 1/3 feet tall. In the studio, Friedman sculpted this using Styrofoam and aluminum baking pans to later be cast in stainless steel at a foundry. Check out a short video showing its arrival to Laguna Gloria: [https://www.thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions/tom-friedman-looking-up/#gallery-videos](https://www.thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions/tom-friedman-looking-up/#gallery-videos)

**LOOK:** Spend time looking at Tom Friedman’s figurative sculpture *Looking Up*. What is this? What colors, shapes, patterns, or textures do you see? What do you notice about its surroundings?

**ASK:** Tom Friedman abstracted the human form in a number of ways, opting for a stylized figure. What parts of this figure are abstracted? How does this change the way we look at this figure? Focus on the limbs. How are these abstracted? What about the texture? Friedman molded aluminum baking pans around a Styrofoam figure that was later cast in stainless steel. Why do you think he chose these materials?

**DISCUSS:** This figure is standing outdoors looking up towards the sky. Discuss what this figure will observe. It will be in the same spot for a long time. What has it observed since April 2015? What will it observe in the future? What is this figure looking at? What is it looking for?

**BONUS ROUND:** This figure is covered with labels and textures from these single-use baking pans. Friedman also creates works of sculpture out of toothpicks or chewing gum. Why do you think he is choosing these materials?