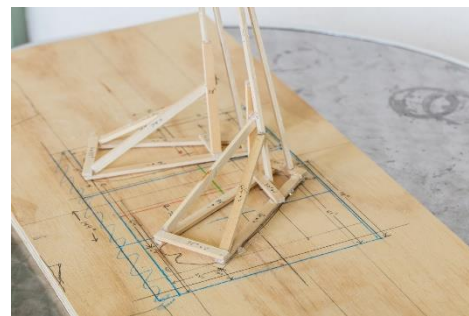


CREATE // TOM FRIEDMAN: *LOOKING UP* // RECYCLED FIGURES IN ACTION

What single-use or recycled materials do you have that could be used for making art?
How will you create a figure doing something using an everyday material?



Tom Friedman created a 12-inch maquette, or miniature model, of *Looking Up* before creating the full-sized sculpture. This maquette is made of wood. His final sculpture is stainless steel.
Photos by Brian Fitzsimmons.



Detail of *Looking Up*



Tom Friedman, *Looking Up*, 2015.
Stainless steel.
390 x 130 x 90 inches.
Edition 1 of 3, 1 AP.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Survey a range of artwork featuring recycled or single-use materials by Tom Friedman and other artists.
2. While examining *Looking Up*, identify and define the components of the figure, including the head/bust, torso, limbs, and features of the face.
3. Discover and discuss reasons why an artist would choose to use recycled materials or single-use materials to make art.

4. Create a sculpture using common, one-time-use materials that features a figure in action. Discuss and generate a list of different verbs, or action words, that the figures could be doing.
5. Describe and demonstrate ways to transform everyday materials into three-dimensional sculptures.

MATERIALS: Anything you have available, including but not limited to: paper types, drawing materials, aluminum foil, paper towel/toilet paper rolls, empty cereal boxes or other food containers/cans, tooth picks, cotton swabs, plastic and paper bags, and other recyclable/one-time use materials, glue/tape/stapler or other adhesive types

LOOK AND DESCRIBE:

- Spend time looking at and examining images of Tom Friedman’s sculpture *Looking Up* at Laguna Gloria.
 - o This is a figurative work of art, or a work of art showing a person. How do we know this sculpture is of a figure? List 3–5 observations.
 - o Who do you think this figure is? What they are doing/looking at? List 3–5 observations.
- This sculpture is 5 years old. That means this sculpture has spent 5 years looking up at the sky! What are some things this sculpture has seen overhead over the last 5 years? List 3–5 things.
- Tom Friedman often uses materials that are single-use to create his sculptures. For example, Friedman created paintings using toothpaste and sculptures using toothpicks. After we have used these materials, we usually throw them away. Make a list of 5 things you use one time and throw away in a day or during the week.
 - o Why do you think Tom Friedman chose to make *Looking Up* using single-use aluminum pans? List 3–5 reasons.
- This sculpture’s title tells us right away what the sculpture is doing – looking up!
 - o Create a list of 3–5 verbs, or action words, that you would want to see a sculpture of a figure doing.
 - o Stand up and demonstrate each of these verbs using your body!
 - o If possible, have a friend or family member take photos of you in these positions. These photos may come in handy when you begin to make art.

MAKE AND DO:

- Tom Friedman often creates maquettes, or miniature models, of his sculptures before creating the sculptures at full scale. Before you create a maquette of your own, look back at images of Tom Friedman’s small, wooden maquette.
 - o Why might an artist decide to make a miniature version before making it full size? List 3–5 reasons.
- Start off with quick gestural sketches of stick figures, similar to Friedman’s wooden stick maquette, to experiment with different postures and actions. This is where those photos may be useful!
 - o Draw 5–7 stick figures in different poses, doing different things. Look back to your list of verbs for ideas!
 - o What is your figure’s head doing? What about the arms and legs? Is your figure in motion, such as running, jumping, or dancing, or is your figure stationary, like *Looking Up*?
 - o Choose one stick figure to turn into a sculpture.
- Single-use materials, like aluminum baking pans, are around us every day. Take a look around your home. Are there any single-use materials your family uses? List 3–5 things you have found.
- Choose one or more single-use or recyclable material to create a figurative sculpture. Maybe the toilet paper recently ran out and you kept the roll, or aluminum foil makes a great sculpting material. Even a simple sheet of paper will do! **Whichever material you choose, be sure to check if it is okay with an adult in the house that you use it to make art.
 - o What are some ways you can manipulate these materials to create your figure? Can you cut it? Can you fold it? What happens if you twist it? How might you combine more than one material?

- Write about your sculpture. Who is your figure? What is this figure doing? What materials did you decide to use and why?

OTHER RESOURCES:

Look through these resources related to Tom Friedman:

- o The Contemporary Austin: <https://thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions/tom-friedman-looking-up/>
- o Check out this video of *Looking Up* being installed using a crane: “Sneak Peek: Tom Friedman’s Sculpture Looking Up at The Contemporary Austin” (03:14) <https://vimeo.com/127220539>
- o Explore this gallery of images from Luhring Augustine Gallery: <https://www.luhringaugustine.com/artists/tom-friedman/artworks>

Here are some links to other contemporary artists using single-use and everyday materials in their artwork:

- o Tom Sachs uses materials like cardboard and used car batteries to create his artwork: <https://thecontemporaryaustin.org/artists/tom-sachs/>
- o Paul McCarthy uses everyday artist materials like dirty rags and old paintbrushes in his sculptures: <https://thecontemporaryaustin.org/artists/paul-mccarthy/>
- o Huma Bhabha uses foam insulation usually found in our walls to create larger-than-life sculptures: <https://thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions/huma-bhabha/>
- o El Anatsui uses empty soda cans and bottle caps to create beautiful tapestries: <https://www.jackshainman.com/artists/el-anatsui/>

Watch this video of Tom Friedman talking about his artwork and process: “Conversation with Tom Friedman” (04:13) <https://vimeo.com/75778170>

- o Tom Friedman is a conceptual artist, meaning he uses any material or style to express his ideas. In this video, Friedman says, “I’ll have an idea, then come up with the best material to satisfy that idea, and as I work with it I will explore it, and that will lead me to other ideas that will come out of just me playing with that material.”
 - How have your ideas changed as you work or experiment with a material?

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LOOK AND DESCRIBE: Take some time to jot down your ideas.

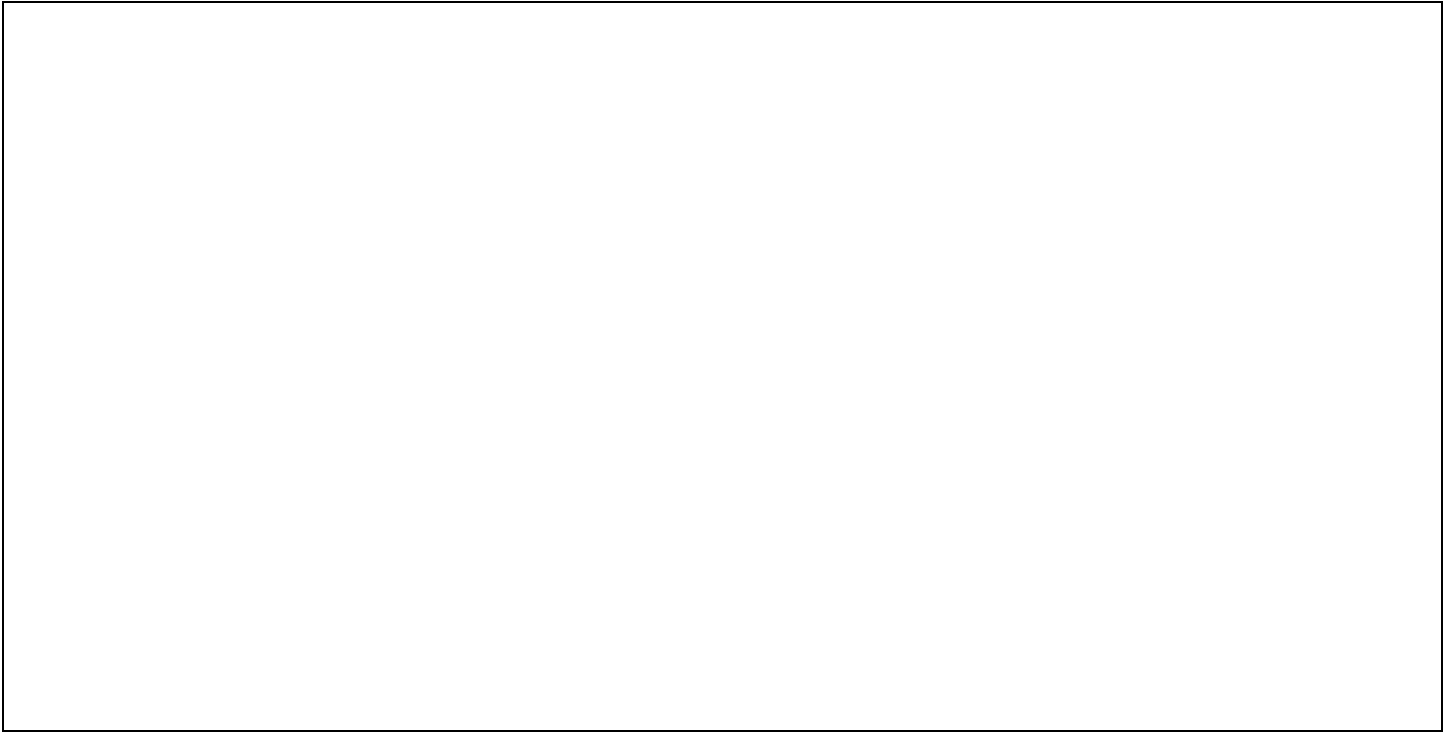
How do you know this sculpture is a figure? List 3–5 observations.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Who do you think this figure is? What are they doing/looking at? List 3–5 observations.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
What are some things this sculpture has seen happen overhead over the last 5 years? List 3–5 things.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Why do you think Tom Friedman chose to make <i>Looking Up</i> using single-use aluminum pans? List 3–5 reasons.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
Create a list of 3–5 verbs, or action words, that you would want to see a sculpture doing. List 3–5 verbs.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

MAKE AND DO: Take some time to sketch or take notes before you start working.

Why would an artist decide to make a miniature version before making it full size? List 3–5 reasons.	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
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MAKE AND DO:

Draw 5–7 stick figures in different poses, doing different things. Look back to your list of verbs for ideas!



WRITE ABOUT WHAT YOU MADE:

Who is your figure? Describe who they are, what they are doing, and what they are made of in the box.

