**LOOK. ASK. DISCUSS. // Monika Sosnowska: The stairs**


**SPIRALING SCULPTURE**

Monika Sosnowska creates works of art that challenge and reorient elements of architecture. By building maquettes, or miniature models, she plans for her projects and then works with fabricators to create her sculptures in large scale. Sosnowska re-creates structures from the built environment using industrial materials such as steel and concrete, and then twists, bends, and forces the material into her desired form. With *The stairs*, Sosnowska worked with artisans from Mexico City to create a spiral staircase, then transformed it from a functional object to a radially balanced sculpture, presented with other sculptures in her exhibition *El Jardín*.

**LOOK:** Spend time looking at Monika Sosnowska’s *The stairs* on the grounds of Laguna Gloria, or using images. Invite your students to describe the sculpture. What is it? What colors/shapes/textures do you see? How is it installed? What kind of rhythm does it have?

**ASK:** Try to come up with as many answers as possible. What does this sculpture remind you of? What do you see that makes you say that? Before coming to Laguna Gloria, this work of art was in an exhibition in Mexico City called *El Jardín*. What does that mean? How does it relate to any of our answers?

**DISCUSS:** Sosnowska worked with fabricators in Mexico City to create a common spiral staircase, then used machines to twist it up into the final sculpture. This process transforms a functional object into a three-dimensional work of art. What everyday object would you alter? Why that object? How would you present this new form of a familiar object?

**BONUS ROUND:** Warsaw, Poland, is where Sosnowska lives and works. In this bustling city, she is surrounded by architectural elements that represent past cultures and ideas while also reflecting the present-day community. Look into Warsaw’s history and how it plays out in its buildings. Discuss the unique elements of your community. What types of architecture exist in your neighborhood, city center, or county? How does history appear in your community’s built environment? What might a visitor find out about the people living somewhere just by looking at the architecture?