

Our Sculptures Ourselves

A New Look at Public Art in Northeast Ohio

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This is a close-up view of the Ohio State University track uniform and finish line on William McVey's *Statue of Jesse Owens*.



This is a close-up view of one of the plants on the left side of Albert Paley's *Kohl Gate*.

A note from the author...

Dear Readers,

My niece from Minnesota visited me two summers ago. She was curious about Cleveland and was thrilled to find a street named after her, Theresa Court. She liked Lake Erie and the sports complexes, but she was most amazed by the sculptures and murals on and around so many public buildings.

Theresa helped me experience art in a new way, as though I was seeing it for the first time, too. Her enthusiasm and excitement were contagious! With renewed, freshened eyes, I shared her sense of discovery and appreciation.

That's why I wrote this booklet. There are more than 100 other sculptures in Northeast Ohio to look at with new eyes, too. Please have fun with this small sample and be assured, there are many, many more to explore!

Let me know what you think!

Best wishes,

Christine Petrell Kallevig

Send Email to: storytimeink@att.net

Sculpture Is Three-Dimensional Artwork

1. **Three-Dimensional** - Something that can be measured in height, width, and depth has three dimensions. The chair you are sitting on is three-dimensional. You are three-dimensional. All the sculptures described in this booklet are three-dimensional, but their photographs are not. Pictures printed on paper are only two-dimensional because the paper's depth, or thickness, is too thin to be measured with tools that are commonly available.
2. **Shape or Form?** - Shapes are two-dimensional, like squares or triangles drawn on flat paper. Forms are three-dimensional, like cubes or pyramids that take up space. It's good to know the difference as we take a closer look at sculptures.

3. **Is it Art?** - Sometimes it's hard to tell. One way to decide is to ask ourselves, "Why was this thing made? What is its purpose? Is it one-of-a-kind or did a machine make thousands of copies?"

Art exists for many reasons. Here are some of the reasons the sculptures in this booklet were created:

- a. Art creates beauty.
 - b. Art expresses feelings.
 - c. Art surprises us and helps us see things differently or have new ideas.
 - d. Art gives form to fantasy and imagination.
 - e. Art decorates our surroundings.
 - f. Art records history.
 - g. Art honors people or events.
 - h. Art makes us curious and amazed.
 - i. Art showcases talents and skills.
4. **If we don't like it, is it still art?** - Of course! We don't have to like a work of art in order to understand why it exists and appreciate its design and workmanship. Our feelings about art often change according to how we feel about ourselves. Public art reflects who we are. So does our opinion of it.

You can be pretty sure that a rubber stamp is more than just a rubber stamp when it's 48 feet long, bright red, and lying around in the middle town!

Sculpture Is Made In Four Ways

1. **Carving** - The artist starts with a block of hard material such as stone, wood, ivory, ice, or soap. Large pieces are cut away and smaller pieces are chipped off until the form is finished. Saws, knives, hammers, and chisels are some of the tools artists use for carving. *Guardians of Traffic* (page 6) and the granite sculptures around the *Fountain of Eternal Life* (page 12) were carved from stone.
2. **Modeling** - The artist hand-shapes clay, soft wax, plaster, or papier-mache into a form. Methods for modeling clay include pinching and rolling clay into long snakelike coils.
3. **Assembling** - The artist puts two or more pieces together to form one sculpture. The pieces can be made of the same material or of different types of metal, wood, plastic, stone, paper, bone, fabric, or string. All the sculptures in this booklet were assembled because they were all made out of two or more pieces. When the sculptures were installed, the pieces were brought to their present location in Northeast Ohio and then put together by a team of workers supervised by the artist who created the design.
4. **Casting** - A liquid hardens into the shape or form of a mold. It requires five steps:
 - a. Carving - The artist carves or hand-shapes a sculpture.
 - b. Covering - The artist covers the sculpture with another material, like plaster.
 - c. Cutting - After the plaster dries, the artist cuts it in half and pulls it away from the sculpture. All the details of the sculpture are perfectly impressed in the plaster, which is used as a mold.
 - d. Pouring - Hot liquid, such as melted metal or plastic, is poured into the mold.
 - e. Cooling - When it has cooled and hardened, the mold is removed and the sculpture is ready to be polished, painted, or attached to another piece.

Examples of casting in this booklet are *Statue of Jesse Owens*, *Chihuly's Polymer Tower*, and the sphere and man in *Fountain of Eternal Life*.

Fountain of Eternal Life - 1964

Veteran's Memorial Plaza on St. Clair Avenue between East 6th and Ontario Streets is the site of this 46-foot tall sculpture by Marshall Fredericks. Also called the *Cleveland War Memorial Fountain* and *Peace Arising From the Flames of War*, its six parts are described in the artist's own words in the caption on the right.

A newspaper, the Cleveland Press, collected \$250,000 to build a monument to honor local people who served in World War II. Fredericks was hired to create the sculpture in 1946, but it took 18 years in two countries to complete. The round bronze sphere was made in Fredericks' studio in New York City, but the four sculptures around the base of the fountain were carved from stones found near Oslo, Norway. The 35-foot bronze man was made there, too. It was cast from a mold similar to how the statue of Jesse Owens was made. (See page 2 for more about casting.)

The granite rim around the fountain is inscribed with the names of over 4,000 veterans from Cuyahoga County who died during World War II and in Korea. Local groups want to add the names of all the Clevelanders killed in other wars, too. Fredericks understood war. He joined the army in 1941 and served in India and Japan until 1945.

In 1955 Fredericks wrote, "I love people, for I have learned through many experiences, both happy and sad, how beautiful and wonderful they can be. Therefore, I want more than anything in the world to do sculpture which will have real meaning for other people and might in some way encourage, inspire, or give them happiness."⁵

The *Fountain of Eternal Life* was first dedicated on May 30, 1964. It was restored and rededicated on Veterans Day 1991. There are two inscriptions:

Cleveland War Memorial Fountain
In honored memory of those who gave their lives for
their country
built with contributions by the City of Cleveland
and through the efforts of the Cleveland Press

For with thee is the fountain of life
in thy light shall we see light
Psalm 36 verse 9

About the Artist

Marshall Fredericks was born January 31, 1908 in Rock Island, Illinois. He moved to Cleveland as a boy and graduated from the Cleveland School of Art (now known as the Cleveland Institute of Art). He also studied art in Sweden, France, England, Germany, and Italy. His work is displayed in Norway, Japan, England, and in several cities nationwide. The father of five, he died April 4, 1998 at the age of 90.



“The four granite carvings depict the geographical civilizations of the earth. The bronze sphere symbolizes the superstitions and legends of mankind. The bronze figure is a man rising from the flames and reaching for eternal peace.”⁴
Marshall Fredericks

Understanding the Facts

1. Write the artist's full name and the city where he was born:
2. What year was *Fountain of Eternal Life* started?
3. What year was *Fountain of Eternal Life* finished?
4. How tall is the bronze man?
5. Use a dictionary to find out what these words mean:
 - a. contribution:
 - b. depict:
 - c. eternal:
 - d. geographical:
 - e. memorial:
 - f. monument:
 - g. sphere:
 - h. veteran:

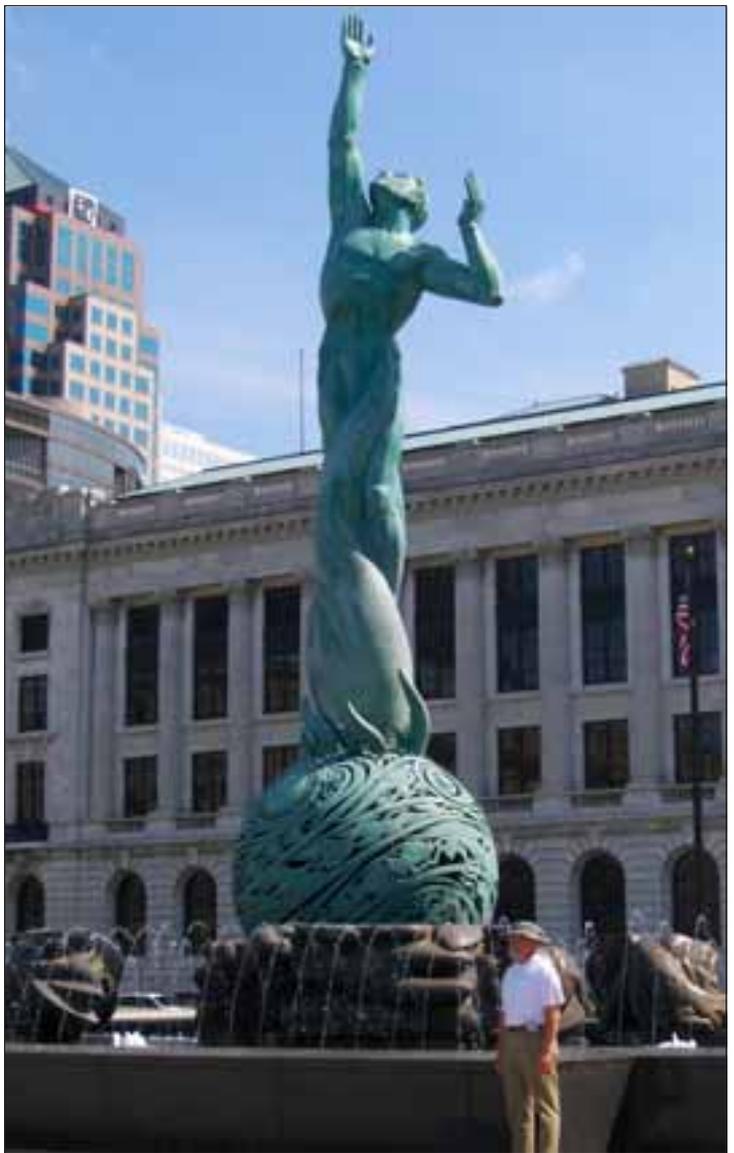
6. How much did *Fountain of Eternal Life* cost to build?
7. What other names is *Fountain of Eternal Life* called?
 - a.
 - b.
8. If the *Fountain of Eternal Life* is 46 feet tall and the bronze man is only 35 feet, what is the height of the rest? (*Hint: subtract 35 from 46*)
9. Name two countries where parts of *Fountain of Eternal Life* were made:
 - a.
 - b.

Thinking About the Facts

1. **Time** is defined in a sculpture by the clothes and tools of its subject. For example, Jesse Owens is wearing a 1935 Ohio State track uniform and the Guardians of Traffic hold different historical vehicles. Time is also shown through the natural aging of the material it is made out of. Bronze often turns greenish-blue when it is exposed to the oxygen in air. What does that tell us about the *Fountain of Eternal Life*?

The granite carvings that represent the four corners of the earth have not been aged by water or air. Do you think that's why Fredericks made them out of granite instead of bronze? Use a complete sentence to tell why granite is a good choice to represent parts of the earth.

Time is also shown by the way a sculpture is put together. Does the artist want us to look back at the past or forward to the future in *Fountain of Eternal Life*? Use complete sentences to tell why.



The figures in this sphere represent superstitions and myths.

2. Many war memorials have sculptures of soldiers and guns. Do you think Fredericks was right to leave them out of this sculpture? Tell why in complete sentences.

3. **Balance** is a principle of art. It is important to sculptors as they decide where to put different parts or colors. Fredericks balanced *Fountain of Eternal Life* in two ways:

a. **Symmetrical balance** is when the right and left sides are equal in size or importance. If you drew a line from top to bottom, would each side be the same size?

b. **Radial balance** is when all the parts are in a circle or arranged around a central point, like the back cover of this booklet. The water forms a circle around *Fountain of Eternal Life*. What other part is circular?

What is the central point?

4. Another title for this sculpture is *Peace Arising from the Flames of War*.

a. Which part represents peace?

b. Which part represents war?

5. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, the same year *Fountain of Eternal Life* was finished. Dr. King spoke for nonviolence and civil rights. Do you think he would have liked this sculpture? Tell why in complete sentences.

Using the Facts

1. Symbols are objects that stand for something else. *Fountain of Eternal Life* has symbols for war, peace, the continents, and the passage of time. Think of a symbol from your own life that stands for peace, then make a sculpture of it. Use materials you already have such as parts of old toys, school supplies, clay, styrofoam, cardboard, clothes hangers, wooden sticks, rocks, bars of soap, sponges, or old clothes. Include a card that lists the name of your sculpture, the artist (you), and the date it was finished.

2. The round sphere in this sculpture represents stories and ideas that were once believed but have now been proven to be false. Write a story about a silly belief you had when you were younger. Tell how you learned it was not true. Draw at least one picture to illustrate your story.

3. Experiment with **symmetrical balance**! You will need:

- An unopened bag of flour that weighs 5 pounds.
- A scale.
- 2 clean plastic bags with no holes in them.
- A board at least 3 ft. long and 4 in. wide.
- A wide-mouthed jar or mug.
- Several small objects of your choice.

Place your collection of small objects on the scale. Add more or remove some until they weigh exactly five pounds. Make a list of all the objects, remove them from the scale, and put them in a plastic bag. Slip the unopened bag of flour into the other plastic bag and knot it tightly on top. This will protect the flour (and your floor!) in case the flour bag tears. Put the board flat on the floor and place the small objects on one end and the flour bag on the other. Put the jar on the floor and carefully place the board over the jar, like a seesaw, until it's level and balanced. Write what happens when you:

- Remove one object from the bag.
- Move the flour toward the bag of objects.
- Move the jar toward the bag of objects.

4. Experiment with **radial balance**! Fold a piece of paper in half, unfold, then fold it in half again the other way, resulting in two creases that meet in the middle and divide the paper into four equal rectangles. Write the word, PEACE, in the middle where the creases intersect. Cut pictures from old magazines or newspapers that demonstrate peace. Then attach them to the paper in a balanced radial arrangement. Add colors, origami, geometric shapes, or other objects that will further express your feelings about peace.



5. Fredericks wanted to, “do sculpture which will have real meaning for other people and ...encourage, inspire, or give them happiness.” Did he succeed in encouraging, inspiring, or giving you happiness with *Fountain of Eternal Life*? Tell why or why not in complete sentences.

Free Stamp - 1991

You can find Earth's largest rubber stamp in downtown Cleveland at Willard Park between E. 9th Street and St. Clair Avenue, just below Cleveland City Hall. The world-famous husband and wife artists, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, began work on this steel and aluminum sculpture in 1985 when Standard Oil of Ohio hired them to create a new work of art for the front of their tall office building on Public Square.

Oldenburg and van Bruggen first proposed an exclamation point for the stamp handle that people could actually walk into, but company leaders feared it might be unsafe. The artists decided to make a solid hand stamp instead. There was room for only four letters on the stamp. After much thought, the artists chose a single word that meant liberty and independence to them. They wanted to say something positive about the city of Cleveland.

Standard Oil of Ohio was sold to BP America while the *Free Stamp* was being built. The new managers at BP America didn't want the *Free Stamp* in front of their office building anymore. They worried that some people might be insulted by the word, free. They believed the sculpture was too modern and would look out-of-place on Public Square. They offered to move it, but the artists insisted that it stay in the center of the city. No one would compromise, so production was stopped and all the pieces of the giant red stamp were stored out of sight for several years in a warehouse in Whiting, Indiana, about 60 miles north of Kankakee, Illinois, where it was being built.

Oldenburg and van Bruggen returned to Cleveland in 1989 and selected Willard Park as a new location for their *Free Stamp*. The next year, BP America agreed to give it to the city of Cleveland. They paid all the expenses to install and take care of it, too.

The *Free Stamp* would have stood upright in its first location on Public Square. In its new home, the artists decided to lay the giant red stamp on its side as though it had just fallen off a city worker's desk. The *Free Stamp* was finally finished and officially inaugurated on November 15, 1991.

About the Artists

Claes Oldenburg was born January 28, 1929 in Stockholm, Sweden, but he grew up in America and studied art at Yale University and the Art Institute of Chicago. Coosje van Bruggen was born June 6, 1942 in Groningen, Netherlands. She studied art history and worked in several museums before they married in 1977. They have worked together ever since.

In a book about their sculptures and drawings, *A Bottle of Notes and Some Voyages*, Claes Oldenburg said, "We would rather risk rejection than put restraints on our imaginations."⁶



Free Stamp
Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen
1991 - Planted Steel and Aluminum
Gift of BP America
To the City of Cleveland
Michael R. White - Mayor
Jay Westbrook - City Council President

Understanding the Facts

1. Write the artists' full names and the countries where they were born:
 - a.
 - b.
2. What year was the *Free Stamp* started?
3. What year was the *Free Stamp* finished?
4. What does the word "free" mean to the artists?
 - a.
 - b.
5. List 2 reasons why BP America did not want the *Free Stamp* displayed in front of their building:
 - a.
 - b.
6. The *Free Stamp* is made out of what two metals?
 - a.
 - b.

7. Use a dictionary to find out what these words mean:

a. compromise:

b. inaugurate:

c. independence:

d. liberty:

e. production:

f. warehouse:

Thinking About the Facts

1. The word *free* is used in many ways. Tell what these phrases mean. Use a complete sentence to tell why you think the phrase is good or bad.

a. Free Loader

b. Free Thinker

c. Free of Charge

d. Born Free

2. Do you think BP America was right to reject the *Free Stamp*? Tell why in a complete sentence.

3. How did the artists feel when BP America refused to display their creation? Tell why in a complete sentence.

4. Over 40 large-scale sculptures of ordinary things have been created by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen. They are displayed in cities in Europe, Asia, and the United States. Their famous sculptures include the following things:

- 45 ft. tall clothespin
- 20 ft. tall toothbrush
- 16 ft. wide button
- 38 ft. tall flashlight
- 96.5 ft. tall baseball bat
- 23.5 ft. tall lipstick

Pretend you are Claes Oldenburg or Coosje van Bruggen. What new sculpture would you make?

a. Object:

b. Size:

c. Colors:

d. Made out of:

e. Draw it. Include yourself so we can see how big it is:

If you could display your creation anywhere in the world, where would you put it? Tell why in complete sentences:

5. **Proportion** is important to artists as they plan their sculptures. Proportion compares the sizes of the different parts. The *Free Stamp* is about 28 feet tall, 24 feet wide, and 48 feet deep. If we studied its proportion, we would find that its width is half as long as its depth. Fill in the missing numbers:
- _____ x 7 = 28 (the height)
 _____ x 6 = 24 (the width)
 _____ x 12 = 48 (the depth)

How many sides form a rectangle? _____.
 How many letters are in the *Free Stamp*? _____.
 List four other things that are built in fours:

1. _____ 3. _____
 2. _____ 4. _____

Honey, I shrank the Free Stamp!! How small would each side be if the *Free Stamp* shrank down to...

$\frac{1}{2}$ Size: _____ ft. tall, _____ ft. wide, _____ ft. deep

$\frac{1}{4}$ Size: _____ ft. tall, _____ ft. wide, _____ ft. deep

6. Write **FREE** on a piece of paper with a pen or marker. Quickly, before the ink dries, press your hand down on top of it as hard as you can. Rewrite and press again until an imprint shows on your skin. Write exactly what you see:

Look at the letters on the *Free Stamp*. Use a complete sentence to tell why they are arranged like that.

7. Red is a primary color. It has the longest wavelength, can be seen from farthest away, and often represents strong feelings. In art, red is a warm color that seems to expand toward the viewer. Use complete sentences to tell why you think the artists painted the *Free Stamp* red.

List five other red things you might see in a city:

- a. _____
 b. _____
 c. _____
 d. _____
 e. _____

Using the Facts

- Build a model of the *Free Stamp* using the numbers you filled in for the $\frac{1}{4}$ size in question #5. Make it smaller by changing feet to inches. Use supplies you already have, such as cardboard, tape, glue, clay, pins, shoe boxes, poster board, egg cartons, construction paper, styrofoam, popsicle sticks, or sponges. Remember to raise the letters **FREE** so that your model really could be used like a rubber stamp.
- Use the facts you've learned about the *Free Stamp* to write a story that starts like this: *One morning I woke up thinking about the Free Stamp! I jumped out of bed and...*
- Make a list of at least 10 other cities where Oldenburg and van Bruggen sculptures are installed or exhibited. Include smaller work that's displayed inside museums. Visit this web site **www.oldenburgvanbruggen.com** to find information. Arrange the sculptures in alphabetical order. Make 3 columns, like this:

<u>Sculpture</u>	<u>*City, State</u>	<u>Country</u>
Dropped Cone	Cologne	Germany
Free Stamp	Cleveland, Ohio	USA

*Include the state only for American cities.

- Oldenburg and van Bruggen believed that the word they chose for the *Free Stamp* was actually a one-word poem. Think of another single word that would make a powerful poem, all by itself. Use complete sentences to give at least three reasons why your word makes a good poem.
- Practice seeing red! Carry a notebook with you for one whole day and write down everything you see that contains the color red. Start first thing in the morning as soon as you wake up and stop when you go to sleep. Organize your notes in 3 columns, like this:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Which part is red</u>	<u>Where I saw it</u>
apple	all red	my lunch at school
my shirt	only the collar	my closet at home

The next day, count how many red things you listed and then summarize your findings in these 10 ways:

- Total items _____
- All red items _____
- Part red items _____
- Seen outdoors _____
- Seen in a vehicle _____
- Seen at school _____
- Seen at home _____
- Seen elsewhere _____
- Man-made items _____
- Nature-made items _____

Check your work
The answer in #1 should =
#2 answer + #3 answer

The answer in #1 should =
#4 + #5 + #6 + #7 + #8

The answer in #1 should =
#9 answer + #10 answer