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Mark Arts' campus is a scenic, artistic oasis in Wichita. The Mark Arts Sculpture Garden is a collection of thirteen permanently installed sculptures, showcasing a variety of styles.

Understanding Sculpture

How to observe a sculpture?

There are many ways to appreciate the beauty of a sculpture. Taking the time to experience it from different perspectives and understanding the intentions behind the artwork are key. Considering the relationships between various art elements can help one fully connect with the piece.

Form and Space

Step back and take in the sculpture. What is the subject matter depicted? Is the sculpture made of bronze, marble, wood, or stone? Different materials can evoke varying cultural or emotional responses. Observing the relationship between the solid forms of the sculpture and the surrounding space is crucial. Sculptures can occupy space as freestanding pieces, viewed in the round, or interact with a surface, like relief sculptures. How does the sculpture's environment affect how it is perceived? Would it be perceived differently in another setting?

Scale and Movement



The scale and movement of a sculpture can affect the perception of the artwork. Are the proportions exaggerated or natural? Does the size of the piece make it monumental, delicate, abstract, or realistic? Do parts of the sculpture appear still or suggest motion? Different angles might give the sculpture a sense of being precariously balanced or of fluidity.

Texture and Detail

The relationship between different textures and details within a sculpture can evoke various feelings and reactions. What do these small elements reveal? Does the sculpture make you feel awe, sadness, joy, or confusion? Sculptures can use metaphors and symbolism to communicate a message. These details can help you understand the artist's intent behind the piece.

Placards

Placards found beside our sculptures provide important information about the artwork:

Artist name	John Doe
Nationality, Year Born	American, b. 1932
Artwork Title, Year Made	<i>Hopeful Wishing</i> , 1976
Medium (Material)	Welded steel
Acquirement	Gift of Jane Doe
Catalogue Numbers	Mark Arts Study Collections 2008.2

Caring for the Sculpture Garden

There are a few things to consider helping care for the longevity and safety of the art and overall respect for the outdoor space.

- Respect the Artwork

Sculptures can be sensitive to wear and tear from the sun and our touch. Oils from our hands can damage the surface of sculptures over time. It is especially important not to lean or climb on the sculptures to prevent damage and for guest safety.

- Preserve the Environment

Part of the enjoyment of a sculpture garden is the environment and nature surrounding the art. It is important respect the plants and landscaping, also disposing of trash in bins.

We hope you enjoy your future visit of our Sculpture Garden and grounds!

