

# The Sheldon Sculpture Garden

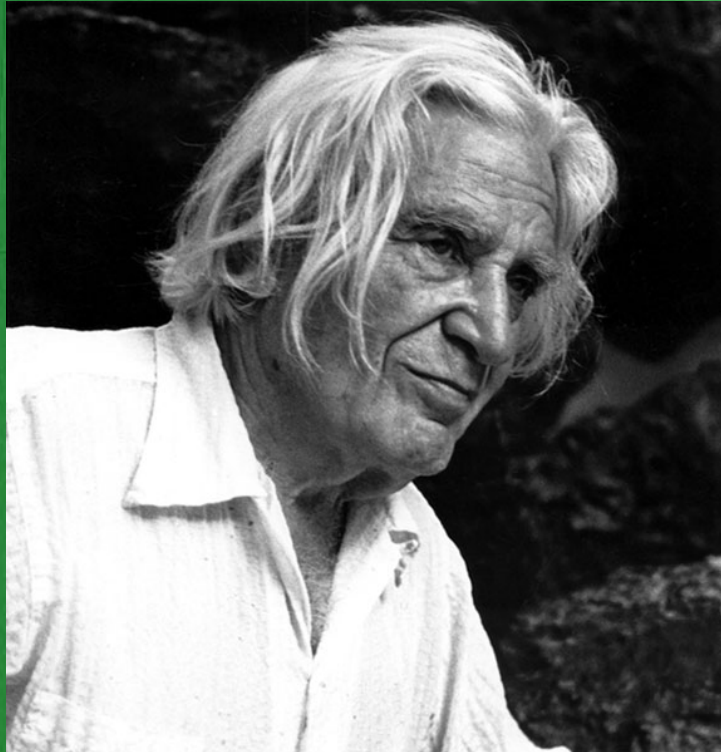
## *Birth of Venus*

By Reuben Nakian





# Reuben Nakian



<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/about/exhibits/nakian/himselfl.htm>



Nakian's parents were from Turkey.

He was very poor many times  
in his life.

He was his own worst critic  
and destroyed most  
of his artwork.



He used wet fabric dipped in plaster and metal rods, and then had them cast in bronze to make this sculpture.

This is an additive process where you continue to add to the sculpture.



He worked as an artist  
for 75 years!

He used themes from  
mythology as his  
inspiration.



# Questions About the art.



The title of this piece is *Birth of Venus*. Venus is the goddess of love and beauty, and she rose from the ocean at birth.

Where or how do you see that in this sculpture?



## Questions About the art.



Do you think that Nakian used this *Birth of Venus* painting to give him any ideas for his sculpture?

Can you see the story in this painting more easily than in the sculpture?



The *Birth of Venus* by Botticelli



# Questions About the art.



Which piece represents Venus?

What part looks like the ocean?

Why is the color appropriate?

What does this sculpture smell like?

What sound would this sculpture make?



# Questions About the art.



What are some things a sculptor has to think about when creating a piece of sculpture that will be displayed outdoors?

Armature, weld, bronze, patina, metal . . .



Here is a fun idea based on *Birth of Venue*



Use a myth to inspire you to create an original piece of art, as Nakian did.

Look at a famous piece of art and write a story that would go with it.