

The Sheldon Sculpture Garden

Torso

By William Zorach



This sculpture is an example of the traditional subject of the female form.

Torso is a simple form because it was originally made in Labrador Granite, a stone that is extremely hard to carve. It was then cast in bronze.



By creating a partial figure, without limbs and head, the artist is able to concentrate on creating a calm, unified, artistic form.

The Artist

As a child
William Zorach
loved to draw,
but his family
was not
supportive.



http://archivesofamericanart.si.edu/collections/digitalcollections/searchimages/William_Zorach], ca. 1930 / Alfred Stieglitz, photographer. 1 photographic print : b&w ; 25 x 19 cm. Forbes Watson papers, 1900-1950. Archives of American Art.

Zorach married Marguerite Zorach who was also an artist. Her work, *Provincetown, Sunset and Moonrise* is in the Sheldon collection.

The work of both William and Marguerite Zorach centered on themes of love, family, childhood, animals, and the beauty of nature.

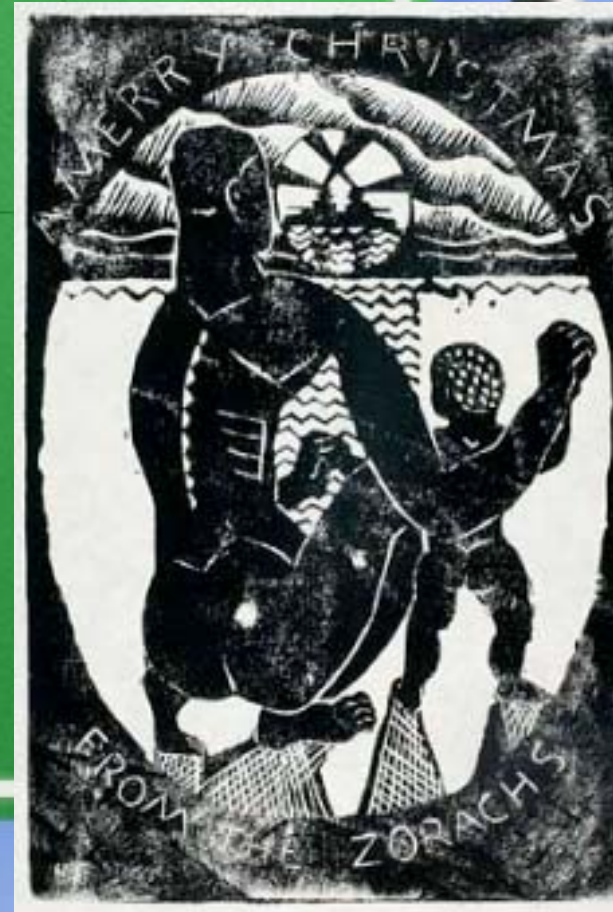


His family emigrated from Lithuania to a town near Cleveland, Ohio, in 1891 when he was four years old.

His family was very poor. He was the eighth of ten children.

By the age of 12 his family needed money, so he got a job in a *lithography** firm to help support his family. Can you imagine working to support your family at this age?

* a printing process using a plate on which only the image to be printed takes up ink.



Zorach, after studying art in New York and Paris, later worked as a painter. However, he became better known for his sculpture. He taught himself how to sculpt. His works were mostly made in wood and stone.



Landscape, 1917



Torso



Is the form
symmetrical
or
asymmetrical?



Torso



symmetrical



Torso



How does
this
sculpture
show
movement?



Torso



Why did the artist choose to show only part of the figure without a head?



Torso



Compare the texture on this sculpture to the texture on Otterness's *Fallen Dreamer*. How and why is it so different?



Here is a fun idea based on *Torso*



Create a sculpture that focuses on only one part of the figure. Incorporate texture and movement if possible.

Write a letter to William Zorach as if he were still living, asking him to assist you or give you advice with your next sculpture. Then, write his response back to you.

Take a trip around the city of Lincoln. See how many sculptures of people, families, children, and animals you can locate in four hours. Make a map to show their location. Chart what materials they are made from, their size, the artist's name, and what subjects they feature. You might even sketch what they look like or take a digital picture of them for your map.