

Teacher resource

Balancing Shapes programme

Years 1 – 4, 75 min.

Len Lye: Happy Moments

5 Aug — 26 Nov 2017



Balancing shapes, hands on activity

How to use this resource

This information is designed for teachers and students to enhance their learning experience when visiting the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre. If you or your students have further questions or require additional information please contact the Gallery education team. Phone 06 7590858 or email gbeducation@govettbrewster.com

How does a class visit work?

Please download Visitor Guidelines for Schools

http://www.govettbrewster.com/media/files/visiting_guidelines_for_schools.pdf

Please discuss the Gallery rules with your students

- Students behave in an appropriate manner; walking feet, inside voice, respect the speaker
- Students respect all exhibition objects, including no touching unless otherwise informed
- No food or drink in the exhibitions

Len Lye *Colour Flight* 1938, film still.

Courtesy of the Len Lye Foundation. From material preserved and made available by Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision

Len Lye *Tusalava* 1929, film still.

Courtesy of the Len Lye Foundation. From material made and preserved by Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision

What are we going to see on our visit?

In the *Len Lye: Happy Moments* exhibition students will experience kinetic sculpture, two short films and see excerpts from a video of a historic kinetic sculpture exhibition. For information about the exhibition please see our website.

<http://www.govettbrewster.com/exhibitions/len-lye-happy-moments>

What are we going to do during our visit?

Lesson plans will vary depending on the learning needs of the class, please let us know if you have specific areas of interest.

This lesson includes group work, so please group your students before they arrive.

Potential learning outcomes:

We learn

- what sculpture is
- to describe in words the shapes and movements of moving sculpture
- te Reo words for body movement
- why Len Lye chose certain materials for sculpture
- how movement and sound go together
- what energy is
- to use imaginative ideas
- to experiment with materials to make a sculpture that moves

Get the most out of your art gallery learning experience

At school activities:

Pre visit

- Discuss the gallery rules and why we have them
- What is the difference between sculpture and other art forms?
- What sculpture have students seen or made
- Find out more about Len Lye.
Start internet search at www.govettbrewster.com
- Familiarise students with terms they will hear on their visit – material, sculpture, 2D and 3D

Post visit

Visual Arts

- Turn hanging sculptures into mobiles
- Use foil to create more mini sculpture
- Experiment moving your artwork with magnet power
- Construct a group exhibition of sculptures on a recycle theme
- Make a painting using the sketches and patterns from the exhibition

Science – Physical world/Technology

- Research answers to the questions that came up during the visit (listed on the visit poster)
- Make a list about how things move, sort into natural or man-made, use science words to describe them

Performing Arts

- Make a group dance inspired by the movement of sculpture
- Record patterns of movement seen in nature and use as motivation for dance
- Make or use poi to show types of movement seen in sculpture
- Experiment with qualities of energy in dance eg sudden, sustained, vibratory

Te Reo Māori

Revisit and practice kupu māori

turning/spinning	hurihuri
forward	mua
backwards (movement)	muri
quick	tere
slow	pōturi
high	runga
low	raro
sideways	tahataha

English

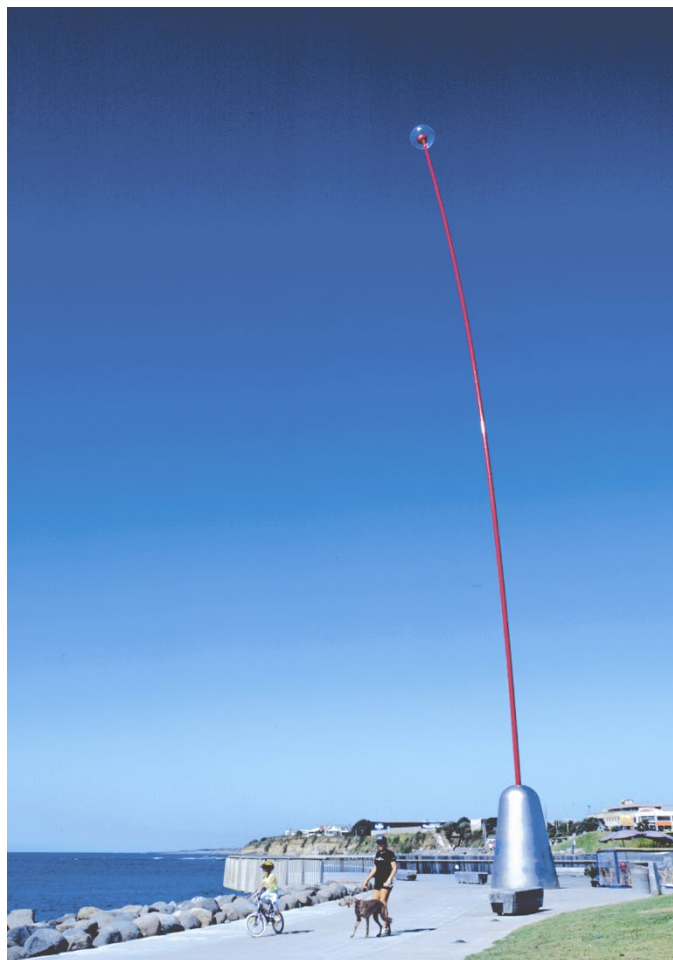
Show movement with static text. Students experiment with arranging and rhyming words inspired by Len Lye's sculptures.

More learning

Find out more about Len Lye and other kinetic artists, start your internet search at:

<http://www.govettbrewster.com/len-lye/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinetic_art
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Calder
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Tinguely

© Crown copyright, 2017
This LEOTC service is supported by the Ministry of Education



Len Lye's *Wind Wand* on New Plymouth's Coastal Walkway
Len Lye's kinetic sculpture *Universe* 1976
Len Lye posing with his sculptures 1961. Getty Images