



The Art of Display: Plinth People



Art
Year 4

Thomas J Price

Thomas J Price is a sculptor who questions the types of people that have traditionally been made into a sculpture and displayed on a plinth. Price is interested in making sculptures of anonymous people – people who are no one and everyone at the same time. By doing this he asks us as viewers to question: What is the purpose of sculpture? How do my figures speak to you?



Vocabulary:

Plinth: a heavy base supporting a statue.

Sculpture: the art of making three-dimensional forms

Form: objects that are 3-Dimensional, or have length, width, and height

Figure: the human body

Clay: naturally occurring, sticky fine grained earth

Plaster of Paris: quick setting fine white powder – moisten and then harden when dry.

Dynamic: giving the impression of movement



Key Knowledge



- That artists think carefully not just about *what* they make, but also how they *present* what they make.
- That when we view sculpture (or other art), the context (way it is presented) affects how we react to it.
- That how something will be seen can help us shape what is made.
- That we can give thought to how we display the art we make, to help us understand how people will view our work.

What is a plinth?

In the traditional sculptural sense, plinths are usually heavy boxes or bases made from stone, wood or metal, which raise a sculpture above the ground. Plinths sometimes protect the sculpture from the elements, such as a sculpture raised out of the way of puddles of rain in the street. More often, the role of a plinth is to give the sculpture some kind of status. By raising the sculpture to a certain level, the sculptor can decide how the viewer interacts with the artwork. Plinths also help create a separation between the ordinary everyday world around us and the art “object”. Seeing an object on a plinth might encourage us to view that object as an artwork – as something special.