

## Virtual Visit: Outline

Lynda Benglis, *Zita*, 1972 and  
Shari Mendelson, *Round Blue/Green Vessel*, 2015

### Content Areas

Visual Art, English/Language Arts

### Essential Question

How do Lynda Benglis and Shari Mendelson communicate ideas and messages through their sculptures' forms and materials?

### Overview

A museum educator presents two sculptures *Zita* by Lynda Benglis and *Round Blue/Green Vessel* by Shari Mendelson, describing their visual elements and asking students to imagine what the sculptures might feel like and what they remind students of. The educator explains how and why each artist uses unexpected materials to make their art. Students are then prompted to create original sculptures out of things in their homes and are shown examples of recycled and unusual materials they might use.

### Objectives

- Students will learn how two contemporary artists create sculptures from non-traditional materials to express their ideas.
- Students will engage imaginatively and descriptively with two sculptures by noticing their shapes, colors, textures and materials.
- Students will create an artwork out of materials they find in their home.

### Materials

Found and recycled materials such as yarn, aluminum foil, plastic bags, bubble wrap, rubber bands, zip ties, egg cartons.

Optional: scissors, glitter, tape, glue.

### Key Terms

- Sculpture
- Three-Dimensional
- Materials
- Vessel
- Inspiration

### Discussion/Support

Teachers can support students by checking for comprehension and prompting students to reflect and respond to questions asked during the virtual visit.

They can assist students to complete the assignment and help students share their work with each other, as well as online ([#RISDMuseum](#) [#museumfromhome](#) [#TeachingwithArt](#)) or with the RISD Museum at [teachers@risd.edu](mailto:teachers@risd.edu).

## Evaluation of Student Work

Students will brainstorm words to express the sensory qualities of the sculptures and describe the shapes and forms of sculptures through movement. Students will create original sculptures from unusual and/or recycled materials found in their homes that incorporate a visually interesting range of colors, textures and forms.

## Discussion Questions and Prompts

What do you think this artwork would feel like if you could touch it?

Make a gesture with your hands that looks loopy, curvy or knotted like this sculpture. You can use your fingers to trace the lines and shapes, or try to tangle your fingers together.

Can you guess what materials the artist used to make this sculpture?

Make a sculpture out of materials you find in your house. Like Lynda Benglis and Shari Mendelson, think about what materials would be unexpected and fun to work with.

## Works in this Lesson

Lynda Benglis, [\*Zita\*](#), 1972.

Shari Mendelson, [\*Round Blue/Green Vessel\*](#), 2015.

Roman, [\*Glass Bottle\*](#), 2nd-3rd century CE.

Roman, [\*Glass Pitcher\*](#), 100s CE.

## More Activities and Resources

*Teaching Notes:* [Artists Ideas, Materials and Process pg. 21-22](#)