

Horses and History

Subject: Visual Arts, History

Grade Level: Grades K-5

Guided Instruction (To be done with teacher, parent, caregiver, older sibling, etc.)

View a selection of artworks featuring horses from the Nasher's collection, available on page two or visit our emuseum online and search for "horses": <https://emuseum.nasher.duke.edu/collections>.

Discuss the images by asking:

- What is going on in this picture/sculpture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can we find?
- What are some similarities you see? Differences?

Notice the dates the artworks were created. You will see that horses have been a popular subject throughout history.

Look at the painting *Horse and Riders* by Ellen Lanyon (1965) and the sculpture titled *Rider and Team Figurine* that dates to the 6th Century BCE. These two works of art, made nearly 2500 years apart, have many similarities!

Activities / Art Making

For this activity, you will use Play-Doh, homemade play-dough (recipe here: <https://tinkerlab.com/rainbow-play-dough/>), modeling clay, or whatever you can find – even masking tape or aluminum foil will work!

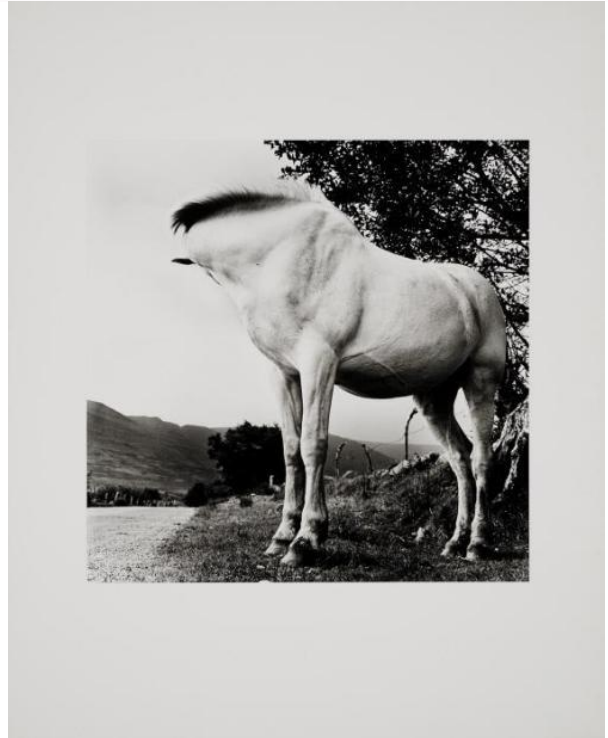
Visit the Nasher's e-Museum and look specifically at paintings in the collection:

<https://emuseum.nasher.duke.edu/categories/classifications/Painting>. Choose a painting that features a subject that interests you and that you could make a three-dimensional model out of the material you chose above.

If you don't have internet access, you can choose an image you find around your house- it could art on the wall or a picture from a book, magazine, or advertisement.

Now, sculpt a small three-dimensional figurine inspired by the subject of the painting you chose.

Next, imagine you can time travel 2500 years into the future and create a two-dimensional work of art inspired by the sculpture you made! What would be the same? What would be different?



(top left) Ellen Lanyon, *Horse and Riders*, 1965. Oil on Canvas, 90 x 70 inches (228.6 x 177.8.3 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA. Gift of Roland Ginzler, 2014.15.2 © Ellen Lanyon

(top right) *Rider and Team Figurine*, Boeotian (Greek), 6th century BCE. Terracotta, 5 x 3 3/8 x 2 1/8 inches (12.5 x 8.5 x 5.5 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA. Gift of Barbara Newborg, M.D., from the collection of Walter Kempner, M.D., 2006.1.125

(bottom left) *Horse Figurine*, Mycenaean (Greek), 13th century BCE. Terracotta, 5 1/8 x 5 1/2 x 3 inches (13 x 14 x 7.5 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA. Gift of Barbara Newborg, M.D., from the collection of Walter Kempner, M.D., 2006.1.119

(bottom right) Alen MacWeeney, *White Horse*, from the portfolio *Alen MacWeeney*, 1965-1966 (printed 1979). Gelatin Silver Print, Image: 11 3/4 x 11 3/4" inches (29.8 x 29.8 cm), Sheet: 19 7/8 x 16 inches (50.5 x 40.6 cm). Collection of the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC, USA. Gift of James R. McNab, Jr. 1984.55.14 © Alen MacWeeney