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Art Vids for Kids *June 2021*

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

Hi, friends! Welcome to this edition of “Art Vids for Kids.” My name’s Kate. In this episode, we’re going to learn about a sculpture called *Pathway*. You’re going to want paper and pencil, so go ahead and pause the video while you grab some. Once you have them, make a sketch of what you see in the photo. Sketching helps us be good observers. Resume the video when you’re ready.



A sculpture is a type of art that is three-dimensional. When we add the third dimension of depth, it’s called “form.” Since this artwork has form, you can walk around it and look at it from many angles.

Now that we’ve sketched some, let’s talk about what we see. What was the first thing you noticed when you saw *Pathway*? From a distance, it looks taller than the building. When you see it, you know right away you are at the Dayton Art Institute. It’s a landmark and a popular place for meeting friends and taking photos.

With this sculpture, many have wondered, how does it stay standing? Although you can’t see it, *Pathway* is firmly attached to a sturdy base. The base is hidden underground. Think about a time when you’ve built something tall out of blocks. Was it helpful for your structure to have a strong foundation?

Before a sculpture is built, an artist studies the shape he or she wants to make. Sometimes, they make a small model, called a “maquette.” This lets the sculptor examine the shape, check its balance, and test materials before making it full-size.

Did you notice the shiny, reflective material used to make *Pathway*? It is a metal called stainless steel. To make a sculpture, small pieces of stainless steel can be melted at a very high temperature and poured into a mold, which is sort of like a container that has the same shape as the finished artwork. The hot metal can also be twisted to make the shape you want. Large sculptures are shaped in several pieces. The pieces are joined, or welded, together. The sculpture can then be polished to make it smooth, shiny and reflective, like a mirror.

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What do you notice about the shape of *Pathway*? Does it look like anything to you, perhaps a walking path through a park? Does it seem realistic? Art that does not look like a real object is called abstract art. What you see and what your friend sees may not be the same and that's okay. There is no right or wrong, your views are just different. Many people like abstract art for this very reason.

Maybe this sculpture doesn't remind you of a path at all. Maybe it stirs up a feeling for you, like how it feels to take flight. The sculptor, John Safer, had a love for aviation, or air travel. He was inspired by the spirit of Dayton's very own inventors, the Wright brothers. Have you heard of them? They invented the airplane.

Wouldn't it be fun to see *Pathway* in-person? What do you think you'd see in its reflection? Blue skies and white fluffy clouds? A glimmer of light on a dark cloudy day? As you move around *Pathway*, the reflections change, like the experiences you have as you journey along a path.

You can visit *Pathway* and other sculptures outside the Dayton Art Institute anytime you'd like. Public sculptures connect us to our history and our community and celebrate our special qualities. If you look, not just at the Dayton Art Institute, but in other places around town, I'm sure you can find more public artwork designed to bring us together. Thank you for joining me. We hope you will visit the museum soon.

END TRANSCRIPT

Click [here](#) for full multimedia presentation.

ARTWORKS FEATURED IN VIDEO

Molten Metal, credit: Pixabay via www.stockvault.net
Crucible Foundry Molten Bronze, via www.pixabay.com
Scale model for Norman Public Library East Branch, James Johnson via oudaily.com
Public Sculpture, James Johnson via www.jameskjohnson.com
Metal Polishing via www.canadianmetalworking.com
Buffing Wheel Steel Mirror Polishing via www.residencestyle.co
Steel making in the UK, credit: PA via www.itv.com
"How to Play Jenga", YouTube, uploaded by Triple S Games via www.youtube.com

Welder Fusing Metal, credit: Marcel Crozet / ILO via www.flickr.com
Joan Mitchell (American, 1925–1992), *Untitled*, about 1961, oil on canvas. Dayton Art Institute, OH. Gift of Mr. Max Pincus in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Elton F. MacDonald, 1964.25
Sol LeWitt (American, 1928–2007), *331/313*, 1975, baked enamel on steel. Dayton Art Institute, OH. Gift of the artist, 1976.13
John Safer, credit: Stephen Voss via www.washingtonian.com
Start of a Glide, credit: Rare Historical Photos via www.historycollection.com

IMAGE SOURCES*

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QUESTIONS OR IDEAS FOR FUTURE VIDS?

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