

Artwork Focus

Henry Moore

Working Model for

Three Piece No. 3:

Vertebrae, 1968

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Henry Moore was a sculptor who found his inspiration in natural formations such as in rocks, bones, and shells.



When you look at this sculpture, what does it remind you of?

This is a sculpture inspired by three vertebrae—the bones that make up our spine.

Stand up, bend over to touch your toes, and run your hand along the center of your back. What do you feel?

You should be able to feel the 33 individual bones known as your vertebrae. These bones interlock with each other just like a puzzle to make up our spine. Just like the spine of a book, our spine helps us to sit and stand up straight.

Moore created this sculpture after finding small stones outside his home that reminded him of the shape of vertebrae.

Take some time and look around your own front or back yard. Pick up a few things that look interesting to you such as rocks, leaves, or sticks.

After you have gathered these things together, think about the different ways you can combine them to create a sculpture. Spend some time and play with the arrangement of your objects.

Once you have decided on an arrangement, make a sketch of your sculpture.

Henry Moore chose bronze as the material for the final version of his sculpture.

What material would you use? How large would your sculpture be? Would you display it in a museum, in your home, or somewhere else?

Henry Moore, *Working Model for Three Piece No. 3: Vertebrae*, 1968. Bronze, 41 1/8 x 93 x 48 in. (104.5 x 236.2 x 121.9 cm.). Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas.

Nasher Sculpture Center