



SCULPTURE



From great images of Ancient Egyptian Pharaohs carved from stone to the **miniature figurine of Big Ben you might have on your shelf after a visit to London**, we have a fascination with the creation and collection of sculpture.

Historically, sculpture was created and erected to represent people in power or tell the stories of mythology, conflict and the human experience. Often made of ceramic, marble and bronze, sculpture is created to survive through the years and allows us today an insight into the stories of the past.

Sculptures in public spaces like in town centres or museums often tell a specific and selected story. **What kinds of stories do we tell with the 'sculptures' we chose to display on bookshelves and mantle pieces at home?**





VENUS *THE ROMAN GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY*

2nd century A.D.

Unknown artist/maker

Digital image courtesy of Getty's Open Content Program

It is a Roman replica created in 2nd century A.D. She has lived in a variety of different collectors spaces before arriving at the Getty Centre.

Around 1866, art collector Sir Francis Cook displayed this sculpture in a home gallery that was open to scholars.

Perhaps he felt this sculpture demonstrated his knowledge of Roman mythology?

He was married to Tennessee Celeste Claflin – a feminist writer who advocated for women's rights to autonomy over their bodies. What inspiration might she have found in this representation of the female body?

Sold to the J. Paul
Getty Museum 1954

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Perhaps this sculpture was owned by an actor or director?
How do you represent your hobbies and interests in what
you collect?

Relief with Theater Masks
1st century A.D.
Unknown artist/maker
Sold to the J.Paul Getty Museum 2017

Now lying in the sculpture garden at the Getty Centre, *L'Air*
was previously collected by Dina Vierny, a muse of Maillo,
the maker. She really might have 'seen herself represented'
in the sculpture! Collectable items often reflect people or
characters we admire.



L' Air
design 1938; cast 1962
Aristide Maillol

Digital images courtesy of Getty's Open Content Program

Donated to the J.Paul Getty Museum 2004

