

The Roche Court Educational Trust

Learning Resources for Home and School.

Sculpture can be found anywhere; you just have to look for it!

Blue Sky Thinking

Have you ever noticed that people rarely look up?

When was the last time you looked at the sky? *Really* looked at it and observed it closely?

Did you know that spending time watching clouds in the sky, as a way of connecting with nature, can improve your mood, lower your stress levels, and help you to think and dream?

The following activities are inspired by **Peter Newman's 'Skystation', 2019**, exhibited at Roche Court Sculpture Park.



Peter Newman, 'Skystation' © the artist and courtesy New Art Centre, Roche Court Sculpture Park

About the artwork:

Made by Peter Newman (b.1969, London), *Skystation* is a sculpture that is also a piece of public art, which can be used by people as a seat. The form of *Skystation* draws from Le Corbusier's iconic LC4 chaise longue, using ergonomic contours intended to fit the reclining human figure. Positioned outdoors, the public seating unit encourages passers-by to lie down and contemplate the vast expansive space of the sky above.

Skystation has a simple form, reminiscent of a flying saucer. This allows the viewer not only to contemplate what is around them but also the idea of transportation to other worlds. The design means that the user lies back and looks up at the sky; it changes our perspective and asks us to think differently!

How is it made?

Skystation is made of fibreglass. This is important for seating as it maintains a consistent temperature and is neither too hot to sit on in the summer nor too cold in the winter. The polished ultramarine finish reflects the passing clouds from the sky overhead.

Question: I wonder why this Skystation is Ultramarine? There is more than one reason!

You can watch a great video of people interacting with the sculpture on the artist's website:

<http://www.peternewman.net/video>

Creative Learning Activities

Can you see clouds in the sky today? If the answer is yes, try activity number 1.

No clouds? No problem. Head to activity number 2.

1: Cloud Spotting

You will need:

- A hardback sketchbook or paper and a clipboard/hardback book (to lean on)
- Pencils, felt tips, chalk, charcoal, crayons
- Picnic blanket (optional)

Find an open space - perhaps your garden, school playground or a local park. Lay down a blanket if the ground is wet. Lie down, looking up at the sky. If you prefer, you can just look out of your window at home!

Spend some time quietly observing the sky. What do you notice, feel or hear?

What shapes can you see in the clouds? If you are with others, tell each other and point them out.

Perhaps a dog, or a dinosaur, a boat or a face? *Pareidolia* is a human tendency to see faces and patterns in inanimate objects or random shapes. Did you know that we are all pre-conditioned to do this from birth?

Use a soft pencil, felt tip, chalk, charcoal or crayons to capture drawings of the shapes in the sky.

Clouds often move quickly, so you may have to work fast! Try not looking at your paper while you draw, make a direct connection between your eyes and your hand movements on the paper.

One step further: Make new drawings directly over the top as the cloud shapes change, creating abstract drawings that capture the movement of the clouds. You could change colour for the new drawings.

Why not start a daily sky diary? You could use pictures and words. You might want to write a description or even a short poem.

You could even become a member of the 'Cloud Appreciation Society':

<https://www.instagram.com/cloudappsoc/?hl=en>

Tag us on Instagram @_ILoveSculpture and #ILoveSculpture to share your creations and sky diaries with us!



2: A Voyage into the Future

You will need:

- Drawing and writing materials
- Your imagination

Skystation is a comfortable seat that fits the human figure and forces the user to look up at the sky. The artist, Peter Newman, wants us to think about space, time and hope for the future.

Peter Newman makes artworks that explore humans' relationship with space. He is a space enthusiast and wrote a letter to NASA in 1995 asking to use footage of the early space programme for his first ever solo show 'In The Sky with Diamonds'. He unexpectedly received a package from NASA containing several metal cases of an original 16mm celluloid film, with a note to return it once he'd made a copy! He showed this alongside the art work in his exhibition!

Did you know that two Voyager space probes were sent out into space in the 1970s carrying a kind of time capsule, intended to communicate a story of our world to extraterrestrials who may find it at some point in the

future? These space crafts have now travelled further into interstellar space than any other man-made object in history! Known as 'The Golden Record' the time capsule includes images, music, sounds and greetings.

You can explore the contents here: <https://voyager.jpl.nasa.gov/golden-record/>

What information would you share with extraterrestrials or people in the future to tell them about your life?

Imagine you are sending a time capsule to be found in the distant future...

What everyday objects or images would you include? Why?

Make drawings that express your life and the things that are important to you.

Write a letter to a person in the distant future. What will you tell them about your life, home, family, hopes and dreams?

What music or sounds would you include in your capsule? Why?

Tag us on Instagram **@_ILoveSculpture** and **#ILoveSculpture** to share the contents of your capsules with us!