



Maquette of the monument to Joseph Gascoigne and Lady Elizabeth Nightingale, 1758

11-18 activity – Christianity in 10 objects

What do you think the story of the statue might be? What figures can you identify?

What pulls you in? What do you think the appeal is? Do you like it?

Can you identify the technique or method used to make this monument? Do you think it is meant to be symbolic in any way?

Look closer at the monument. What do you notice about the position of the figures? What relationship might these figures have? What makes you think that?

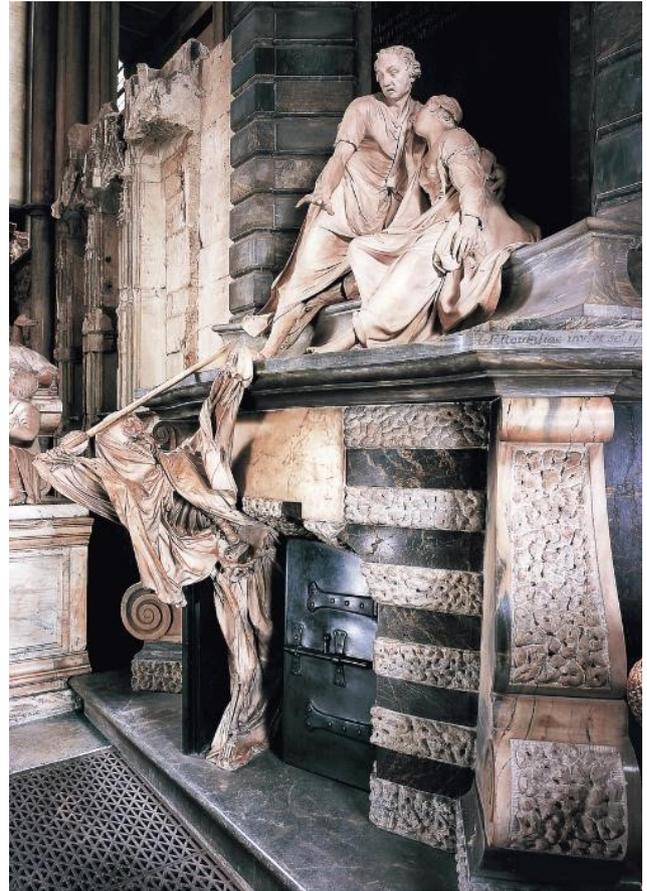
Does this image remind you of any other art you've seen or something from your own life? Is there anything familiar in this image?



Louis-Francois Roubiliac, the sculptor had a tough job. Lady Elizabeth Nightingale was the much-loved wife of Joseph Gascoigne. Her early death was devastating for her husband. After Joseph's death, the family commissioned Roubiliac, one of the greatest sculptors of the time, to design a memorial of the couple to stand in a very public place, Westminster Abbey. The monument shows Joseph embracing Elizabeth and trying to push death (in the form of a skeleton) away from her.

A great monument such as this one can take years to create. The sculptor must first sketch out some designs on paper. Then a small clay model is made so that the initial sketch can be explored in 3D. Then a larger clay maquette is made so that the sculptor can see if the design works before the final piece is created.

The maquette you see below was made by Roubiliac as part of the design process. It was created in 1758, three years before the monument was finally completed. It has been damaged and parts of it have been broken but we can still see that Roubiliac's original design changed over time.



Activity: Design a memorial

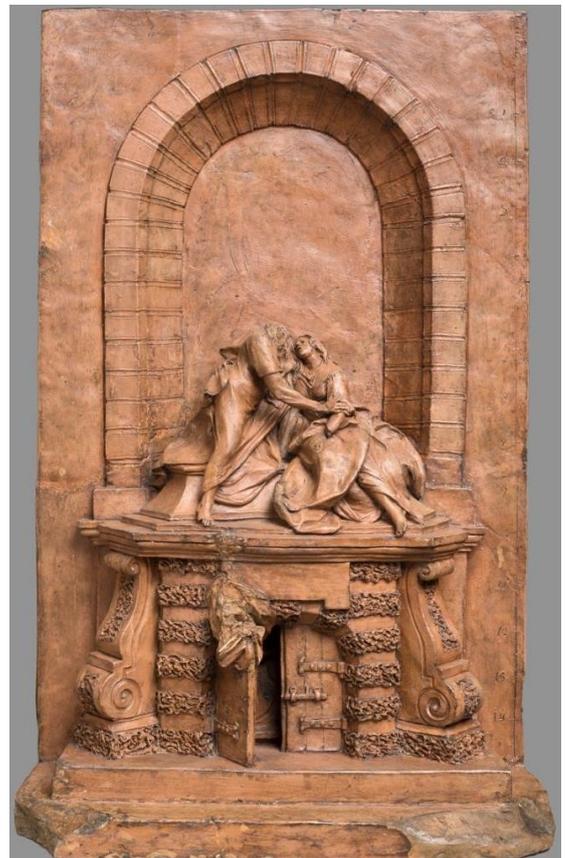
Look carefully at the Maquette and the Memorial.

List all the similarities and differences you can see between the two designs.

The position of the two figures in relation to each other has changed. For example, Elizabeth's body is turned towards her husband in the final version. Why do you think Roubiliac made this change?

Which design do you prefer?

The design process for creating a memorial is a bit like the process we go through in our lives. Think of someone from the past who you admire. Have a go at designing a memorial for that person. The important thing is to go through a design process.



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1. Sketch your design on paper
 2. Make a small 3D model of your design. This could be out of clay, paper or other materials.
 3. Leave the project for a week or so. Are you still happy with the design? Is there anything you would want to change? Is there anything you want to include now that you didn't include before?
 4. Reflect on the journey of your design. Is it important to leave a design and come back to it after a period of time? Is it better to just model something without going through the design process?

Extension

One of the greatest artists of all time was Michelangelo. He lived and worked in Italy during the 15th and 16th centuries He created many monuments out of marble and stone. You might like to search online for his work. He is credited with saying the following:

'The sculpture is already complete within the marble block, before I start my work. It is already there, I just have to chisel away the superfluous material'

'I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free'

What do you think Michelangelo meant by this?

Michelangelo was a great Renaissance artist. Another great Renaissance artist and contemporary, was Pietro Torregiano. Torregiano came to England and was commissioned to design the memorial to King Henry VII and his wife Elizabeth of York. The memorial dates from 1517. Torregiano had produced a number of designs before this final design was approved by the family. In this case too, the husband had been left devastated by the death of his wife. You can view it [here](#).

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