

Talk About It



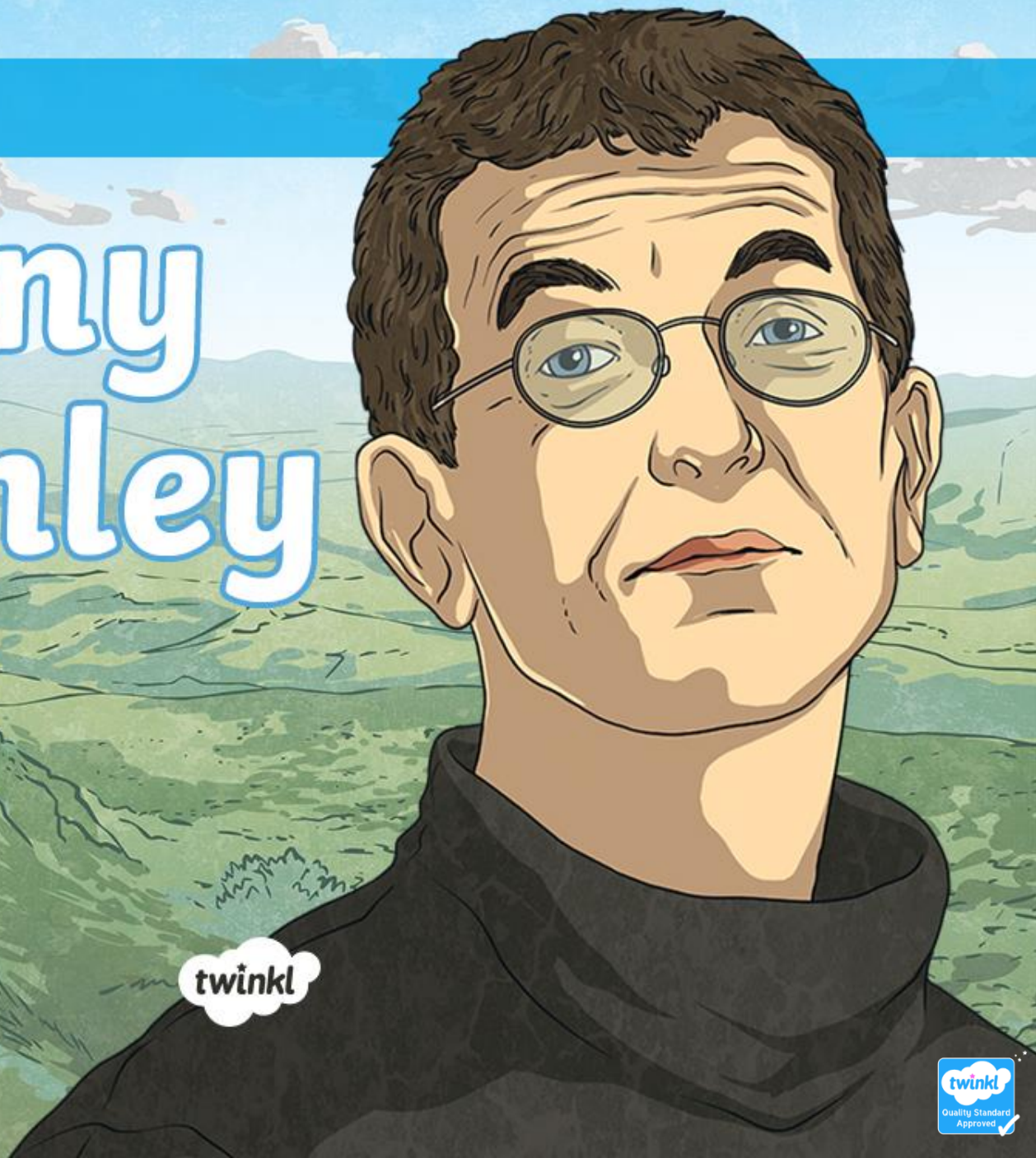
What do you think this is?

Where do you think this is?

Who do you think created this?

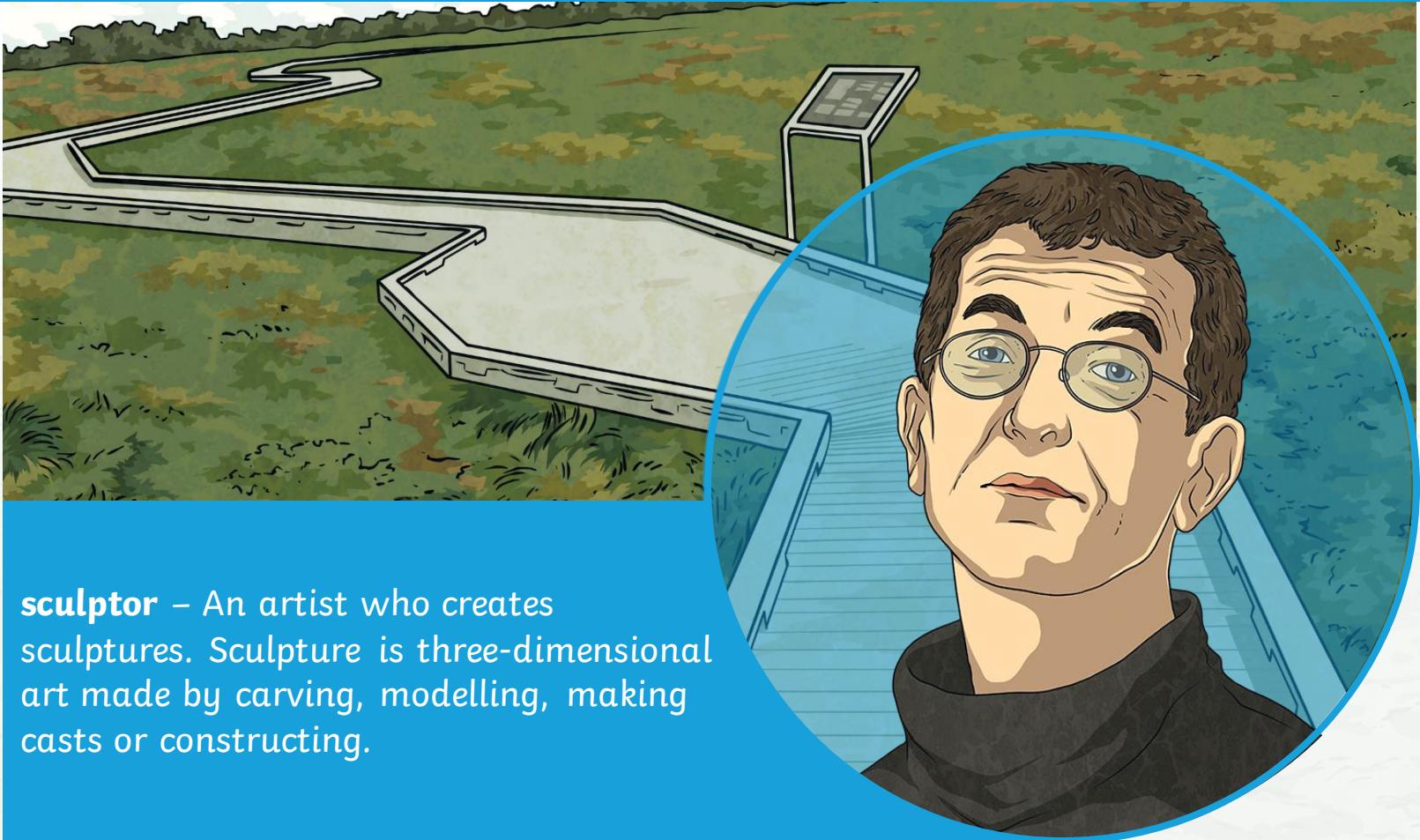
All About...

Antony Gormley



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Antony Gormley



sculptor – An artist who creates sculptures. Sculpture is three-dimensional art made by carving, modelling, making casts or constructing.

Antony Gormley

Antony is married to the artist Vicken Parsons. They have three children: Ivo, Paloma and Guy.

In 1994, Antony won the Turner Prize, one of the most important awards in art. In 1997, he was given an OBE (Order of the British Empire) and in 2004 he was given a knighthood. This means his full title is Sir Antony Gormley, OBE, and his wife's title is Vicken Parsons, Lady Gormley.

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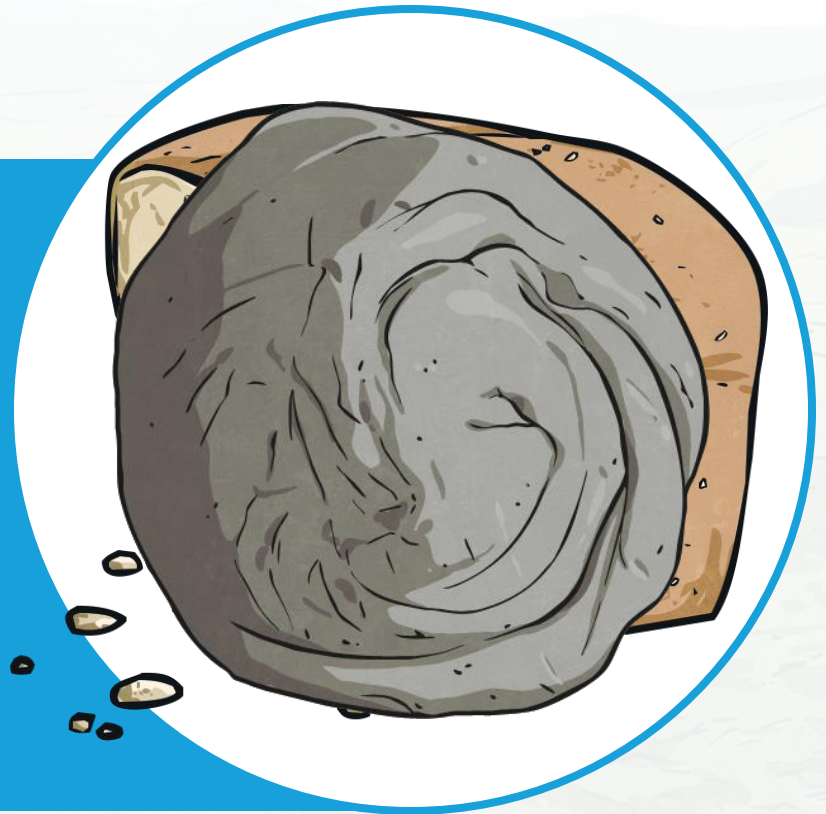
If you won an award, what do you think it would be for?



Antony Gormley's Sculpture

Antony's sculptures are mainly based on the human body.

Many of Antony's sculptures are based on his own body. He makes casts of his body to create the shape. He does this by wrapping parts of himself in cling-film (avoiding his face) and then covering this in a quick-drying material, such as clay. Once the material is dried, it is cut in half. This is then used as a mould for Antony to fill with different materials to create body shapes.



The Angel of the North, 1998

This is one of Antony's most famous sculptures. It is on the top of a hill next to the A1 in Gateshead in the north east of England.

It is 20 metres high and its wingspan is 54 metres. It weighs 200 tonnes. Underneath the hill are concrete piles 20 metres deep to keep the angel in place. Explaining why he chose to make a sculpture of an angel, he said, "No one has ever seen one and we need to keep imagining them."

Did You Know?

The angel's wingspan is the same size as that of a jumbo jet plane!



Exposure, 2010

This sculpture is in the Netherlands.

It is 26 metres tall, although if the figure was standing up, it would be over 100 metres. It weighs 60 tonnes.

The different lengths of metal were made by a company that usually makes pylons (the tall structures that hold up electrical wires). Each piece was cut by hand.

'Exposure' took 6 years to build

Did You Know?

Some people say it looks like the figure is sat on the toilet!



Another Place, 1997

This isn't someone wading in the sea!
This is one of the iron figures that makes up the piece called 'Another Place'.

Antony created the sculptures to explore humans' relationship with nature.



Did You Know?

Crosby Beach is a non-bathing beach and visitors are told not to try to swim out to the figures.

Iron:Man, 1993



'Iron:Man' is in Victoria Square in Birmingham city centre.

It is 6 metres tall but that doesn't include the statue's feet which are actually underground. 'Iron:Man' weighs 6 tonnes.

When the sculpture first arrived, some people didn't like it especially as it looks like it is rusty. However, it is now a much loved part of Birmingham.

Did You Know?

It is rumoured that when Diana, Princess of Wales, reopened Victoria Square in 1994, some people wanted the statue hidden from her in case she didn't like it!

Other Work

Antony has created many other well-known sculptures that have often been exhibited in unusual ways. 'Event Horizon' is a series of sculptures that look similar to the ones on Crosby Beach, except these figures were placed on the top of buildings. The exhibition was shown in London, New York and two cities in Brazil. At first, the sculptures worried some people, as from far away, they looked like real people balancing dangerously on the edge of tall buildings!



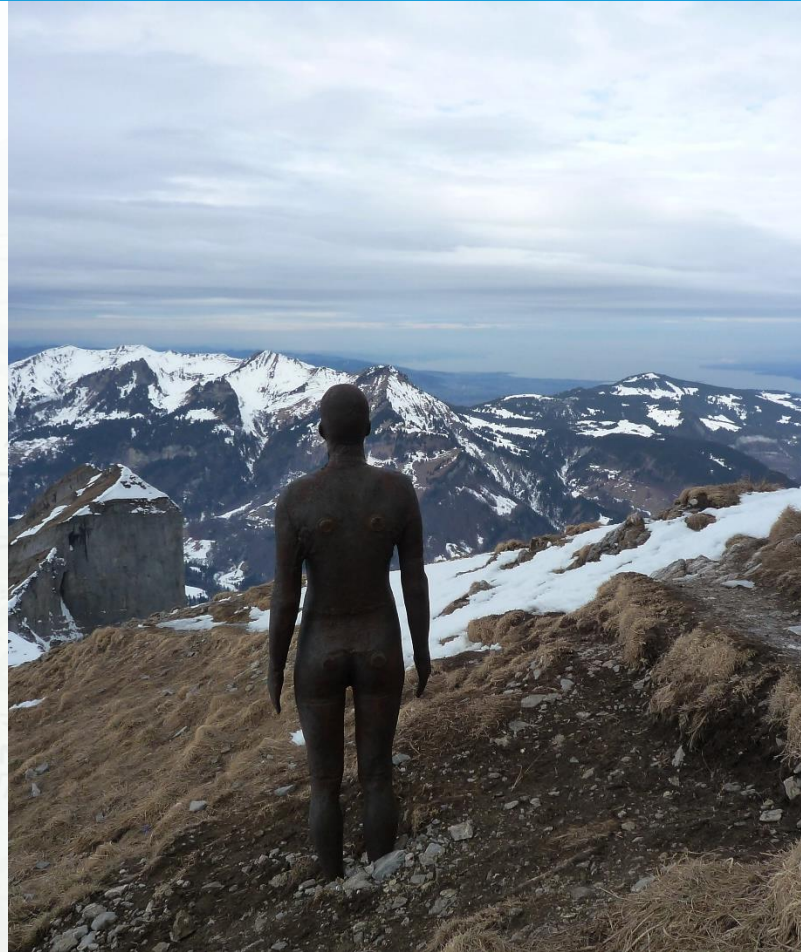
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If you were going to create pieces of art made up of statues, where would you put them and why?

Try It Yourself

Why not try creating your own sculptures inspired by the work of Antony Gormley?

You could use different material, such as clay or playdough, to make body shapes. Experiment with grouping them in different numbers and putting them in different places. You could add wings to make your own angels of the north, south, east or west!





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