

Candy Man

John Neering

Grand Rapids artist John Neering, has welded figures for over 20 years.

His passion is for steel, copper and brass and found objects that he combines in his work.

Neering's work is called **Brutalist**, a term that uses the French word "brut" which means raw. The materials used to create his figures are in a raw state, nothing has been done to change or improve them.

Most of his figures are made of combinations of metals with epoxy resin and gypsum compound. John sometimes burns holes in the metal to get the effect he wants.

As his figures age, they begin to rust, fall apart and change. This is his intention...when anything is raw and unprotected, it will definitely transform into something else.

His almost abstract figures seem human. Could it be that Neering is sending the message that we are in a "raw state"? Life alters our appearances yet we are internally the same.



Walk around the sculpture

Look closely at Candy Man's head.

The first thing we see on a person is their face.
What expression do you think he is making?
The body is also the same metal as the head.

Look closely at this surface on the body.

How do you think Neering made this?
Is Nature also one of the artists... creating decay and character?

Observe the arms.

What is different about them?
Is Candy Man using his hands to send a message?

Lastly, notice the legs.

What pattern do you see?
Was the pattern already created or made by the artist?

