



Family of Man

Cynthia McKean

Cynthia McKean grew up in Montana and Wyoming where colors are strong and the weather is fierce. After getting degrees in biology and architecture, she moved to Holland and landed a job in a welding shop. Cynthia followed her heart and started making steel sculptures, big and small, colorful and abstract.

The **Family of Man** tells the story of life's cycle. This sculpture emerges from a single steel plate which represents Mother Earth. When a person is born, they separate from their mother, yet she is always remains in their lives. Each individual intermingles with neighbors, the outer curve of one becoming the inner curve of another. When someone dies, they return to earth.

The three larger figures symbolize the elders who provide guidance and protection of the young who are moving forward toward the future

The small form in the background, can be seen as an embryo or a tombstone. Man's life cycle connects us to the present, past and future.

Walk around the sculpture

Why did the artist chose the color red?
How does the color red make you feel?
Notice there is a front and a back.
This sculpture is similar to a relief where forms are pulled from the background and pushed forward, a transformation from 2D to 3D.

Move closer to the sculpture

The figures are bigger in life.
The viewer feels small standing near the piece. It is a reminder that every person is a tiny part of the world and our universe.

Stand away from the sculpture

The round heads on each figure show we are similar in many ways.
The different body shapes suggest each person has their own image and personality.
The empty or negative shapes are important. They send the message that we all came from somewhere and will return someday.

