

DAVID ALTMEJD THE ISLAND, 2011

“All my sculptures were in the shape of very intricate architectural structures that integrated the body. My goal was actually at that time, for all that time, to make the architectural structure become a body, and make it feel like it was becoming alive like a body, by adding little bits of energy here and there. And it was always horizontal. But then I thought, if I worked on the body of a giant, then I would be able to explore a new space, a new vertical space, and at the same time I would start with the body, and the body would become a sort of architecture. So instead of the other way around, starting with the architecture and making it become a body, I am starting with a body, and that body is so large that it’s actually not really a body. You can’t really identify with a giant. The best you can do is imagine inhabiting it. Because it’s so large, that just a hole in the thigh can become a hiding place for a little animal or something. The other thing that was really important for me, and very interesting, is that for the first time, I was able to work on a body, and when I got closer to it, it was so large that I forgot that it was a body. I was able to focus on part of a leg and just see it as a sort of landscape inside of which I could get lost and work on textures and colours and spaces, but forget that it was a body.”¹

- DAVID ALTMEJD

ADDITIONAL LINKS

[REMEMBERING HENRY’S SHOW: SELECTED WORKS 1978-2008](#)

[DAVID ALTMEJD](#)

[THIRD DIMENSION: WORKS FROM THE BRANT FOUNDATION](#)

[DAVID ALTMEJD EXHIBITION CATALOGUE](#)

ACTIVITY

Think about Altmeld's process and create your own sculpture or collage using found materials. Approach the different sections of the figure as if they were their own landscape or architectural form, making up the larger body.

Share your creations with us on Instagram @thebrantfoundation!

QUESTIONS

1. What materials can a work of art be made from?
2. What materials did you use? Why?
3. What is the title of your artwork?
4. What is the story surrounding your artwork?
5. Did the artwork's narrative affect the materials you used?

MATERIALS

magazine clippings
clay
twigs
pipe cleaners
cardboard
yarn
beads
aluminum foil

EXAMPLES

