

5

Leonard Baskin  
(American, 1922 - 2000)  
The Owl, 1962



What is this owl doing? Has it just landed, or is it about to take off into flight? It's hard to tell. Owls are nocturnal, which means that they sleep during the day and are awake at night. Owls can see really well at night, much better than humans can!

There are many different myths or stories about owls. Some people think owls are very wise and others think that they are pets for wizards. The Ancient Egyptians used the symbol for the owl in their alphabet, it stood for the letter 'M'.

This sculpture was made by a professor at Smith College named Leonard Baskin. He liked to make sculptures of large birds of prey such as eagles, hawks and owls.

6

Elliot Offner (American, 1931- )  
Great Blue Heron, 1987



This was made by an artist named Elliot Offner, who was also a professor at Smith College. As an artist, he was inspired by nature and his own encounters with wildlife. He has made many large sculptures of various animals using bronze, which is a heavy and strong material. But this time, he used bronze to create this delicate bird, called a heron.

Many people find that when they remember this sculpture, they see in their mind the image of an actual bird taking off from the water. If you close your eyes, can you imagine what the heron will do next?

This is a special sculpture to Offner. He said, "Of all the public sculptures I have ever done, none has brought as many warm thoughts as the heron". Why do you think he found the heron an inspiring idea for a sculpture?

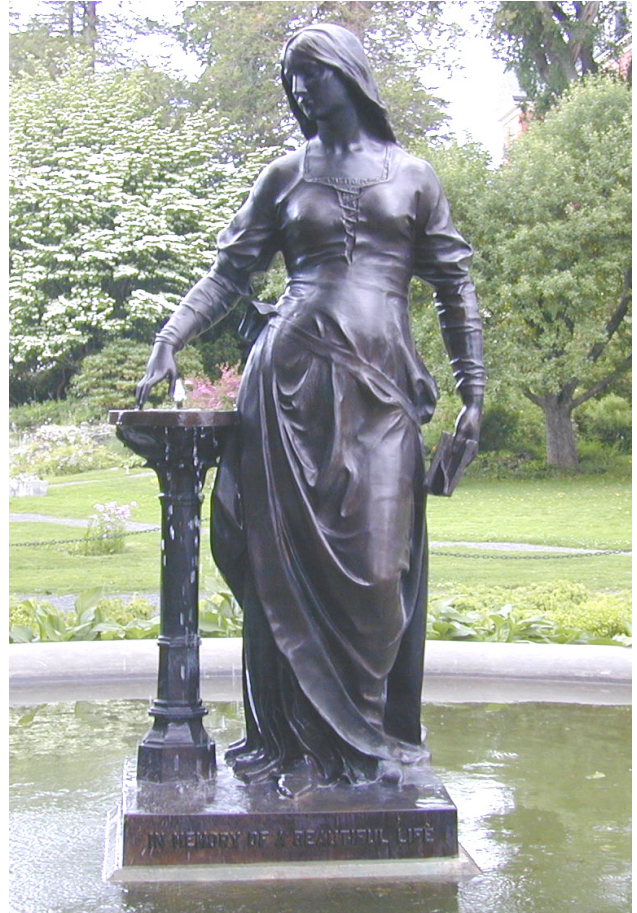
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## Outdoor Sculpture on Campus Walking Tour for Kids!



SMITH COLLEGE  
MUSEUM OF ART



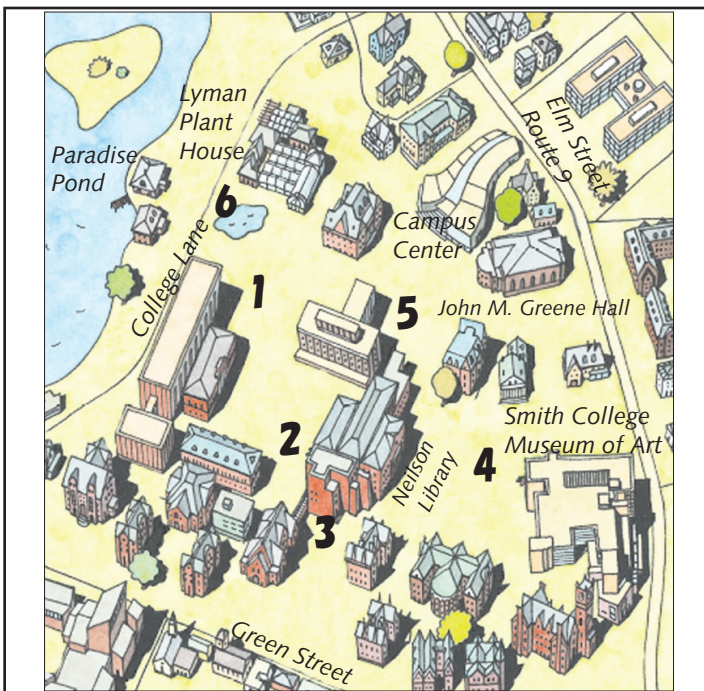
1 (See Map Inside)

Jean Gautherin (French, 1840 - 90)  
Female figure for the Lanning Fountain

This bronze sculpture is a memorial to a woman who went to Smith a very long time ago named Mary Tomlinson Lanning. This is not only a sculpture, though, it's also a fountain!

Bronze is an excellent metal to use for a fountain because it will not get rusty like other metals. Bronze is made out of a combination of two metals: copper and tin. Many of the sculptures that you will see on this sculpture tour will be made of bronze because it lasts a very long time. People have been making bronze sculptures for thousands of years, there are bronze sculptures in museums that are over 3000

If you could make a bronze sculpture, what would you make it of? You can think about this as you look at all of the sculptures you see today.



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1</b> Lanning Fountain  | <b>4</b> George Rickey, <i>Four Lines Oblique Gyration</i> |
| <b>2</b> Grace Knowlton, <i>Three Forms from the Brooklyn Series</i> | <b>5</b> Leonard Baskin, <i>The Owl</i>                    |
| <b>3</b> Stephen Antonakos, <i>Once, Again</i>                       | <b>6</b> Elliot Offner, <i>Great Blue Heron</i>            |

## 2

Grace Knowlton (American, 1932 - )  
*Three Forms from the Brooklyn Series*, 1991



These aren't your normal boulders! The artist, a woman named Grace Knowlton, wanted to change people's ideas about what exactly a boulder is. Have you seen a boulder anywhere before? How are these different?

- |                            |                                 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| We think of boulders as... | But these are...                |
| - Made by nature           | - Made by an artist             |
| - Stone                    | - Sheets of copper              |
| - Rough and bumpy          | - Smooth and powdery            |
| - Solid                    | - Hollow (you can peek inside!) |

Try walking around the boulders and looking at them from different angles. Do they seem to change their spacing?

There is a chemical coating on the boulders called a patina. This will cause the boulders to change in color over time!

The weather can also make the boulders change in appearance. Can you imagine them on a bright, sunny day? A cold, wet day?

## 3

Stephen Antonakos  
 (Greek-American, 1926 - )  
*Once, Again*, 2001  
 Neon light installation



The sculpture was made with neon light tubes. Have you ever seen a neon lit up sign? It's made the same way! In order to make a neon light, a tube is filled with Neon gas and then sealed. When electricity runs through the tube, the neon gas lights up.

The artist wanted the tubes to be lit up all the time, because they would look different depending on the time of day. At night the tubes themselves will be very bright, but then in the morning and during the day, they will be dimmer.

When neon gas lights up, it turns red. So how did the artist get green and blue neon lights? Scientists discovered that if you add different elements to the neon tubes, they will glow different colors! For example, if you add Mercury, you will get blue, and if you add Argon, you will get green.

## 4

George Rickey  
 (American, 1907 - 2002)  
*Four Lines Oblique Gyration Rhombus*, 1972



Sometimes this sculpture moves very quickly, and sometimes it moves very slowly. Sometimes it doesn't move at all. What is it doing right now? What do you think makes it move? If you guessed the wind-- that's right!

This was made by an artist named George Rickey. It's called a "kinetic sculpture", which means it's three-dimensional and moves in space. Rickey grew up in a family of mechanics and engineers: his grandfather made clocks and his father made sewing machines. Rickey learned about machines from them, and used a pendulum to make his sculpture stay balanced.

A pendulum is a mechanical apparatus that allows a fixed object to move freely back and forth under the influence of gravity. If you've ever seen a grandfather clock swing back and forth, you know what a pendulum looks like!

