

**Aspen Art Museum**  
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# Educator Notes



Installation view: *Florian and Kevin*, 2014. Photo: Michael Aberman

**Sarah Lucas**

## **Florian and Kevin**

October 22, 2014—January 25, 2015

## About the artist

Sarah Lucas is a British sculptor, installation artist, and photographer. She studied and continues to live and work in London, where she also emerged as one of the major Young British Artists (YBAs) of the 1990s. Often using furniture or inanimate objects as a substitute for the human body, Lucas confronts gender and identity stereotypes with humor and boldness.

## About the exhibition

*Florian* and *Kevin* are two massive concrete sculptures that take the form of squashes, placed on the rooftop of the Aspen Art Museum. Similar in color and material to the gray concrete floors of the museum, these artworks have taken up a new home in our Sculpture Garden as if they had been transplanted from an oversized vegetable patch.

The scale of these artworks is gigantic, creating a fantastical and surreal experience for visitors who are able to walk around and even sit on the sculptures. Appearing as though they have sprouted from Jack's magical beanstalk, we are called to wonder how such large, heavy objects arrived at the top floor of the museum. They also ask us to consider the scale of the surrounding environment, from the massive physical presence of the Colorado Rocky Mountains to the big ideas presented through art and culture within Aspen.

The artist anthropomorphizes these inanimate objects by naming the sculptures "Florian" and "Kevin," which invites us to imagine the artworks as living beings and encourages a relationship between the two sculptures. Working in the lineage of feminist artists like Eva Hesse and Louise Bourgeois, Lucas describes her sculptures as characters that attempt to engrain stereotypes of identity and gender. Her tongue-in-cheek approach requires us to consider our bodies, illuminating our physical interaction with art and one another.

## Questions for discussion

- 1 Why do you think the artist chose concrete as a material? Discuss how concrete is made and how you imagine she made these sculptures.
- 1 Compare the shape and design of each sculpture. How are they similar? How are they different? Do you imagine each one with a particular identity?
- 1 What is the relationship between *Florian* and *Kevin*? What do you think they would say to each other if they could speak?

## Suggested activities

### Stop-motion animation

- 1 Have students take a photograph of *Florian* and *Kevin* or download images from the museum's website. Cut out each sculpture and turn them into characters for a stop-motion animation. Students should write a script and be able to describe the characters of "Florian" and "Kevin."

### Oversized sculptures

- 1 Have students bring in a familiar object from their kitchen—a fruit, a vegetable, a kitchen utensil, etc. Start by drawing these objects on large pieces of paper so that the sketches are larger than the original object. Next, use air-dry clay to create oversized sculptures of these familiar objects. Invite students to think of where they would place their sculpture so that it would have the greatest sense of humor.

For more information, please contact the Education Department at 970.925.8050 ext. 133 or email [education@aspenartmuseum.org](mailto:education@aspenartmuseum.org).

AAM exhibitions are made possible by the Marx Exhibition Fund. Sarah Lucas's *Florian and Kevin* is supported by the Simone and Kerry Vickar Roof Deck Sculpture Fund, and funded in part by the AAM National Council.

AAM education programs are made possible by the Questrom Education Fund.