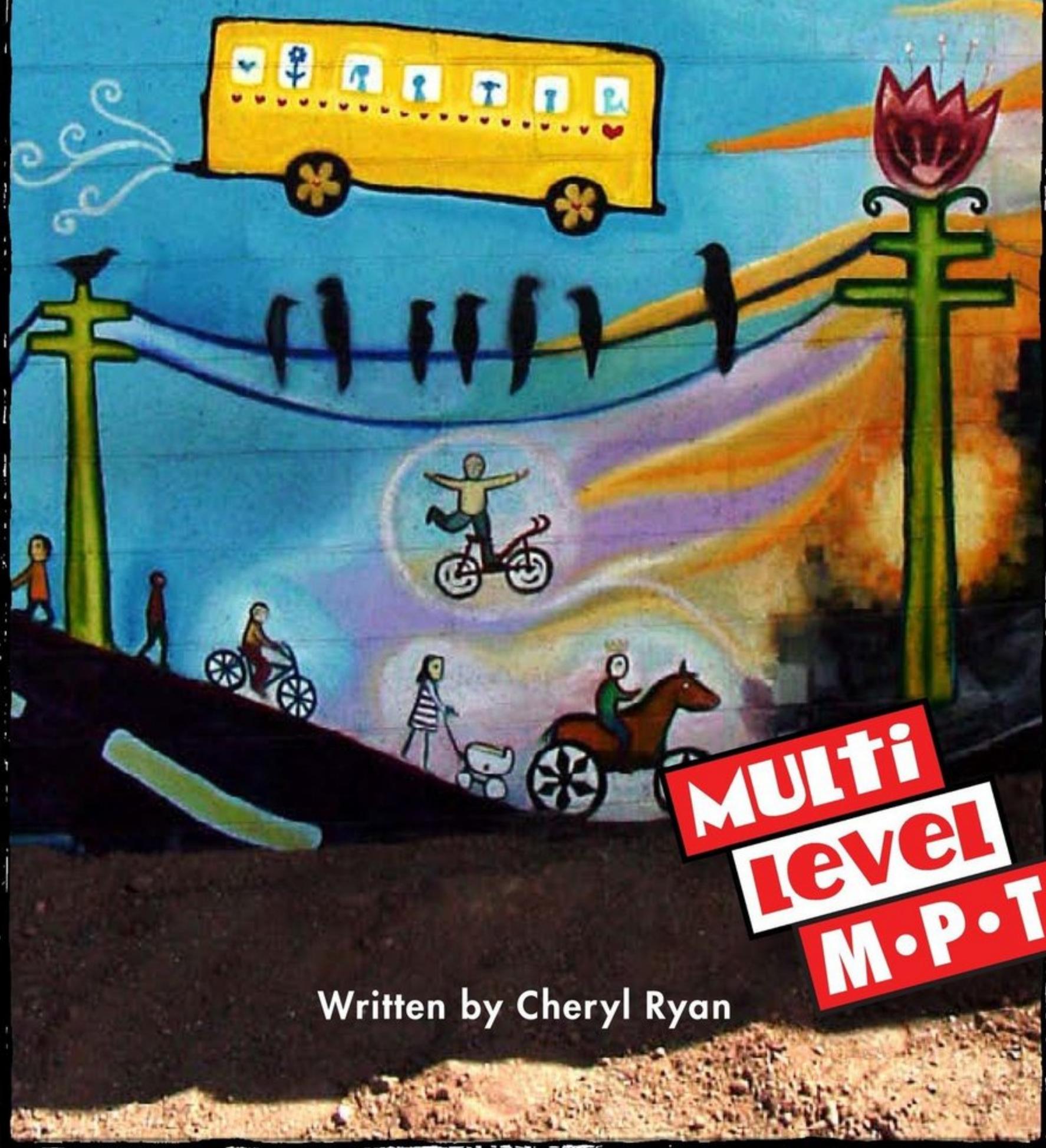


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# ART Around Us



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Written by Cheryl Ryan

# **ART**

# **Around Us**



Written by Cheryl Ryan

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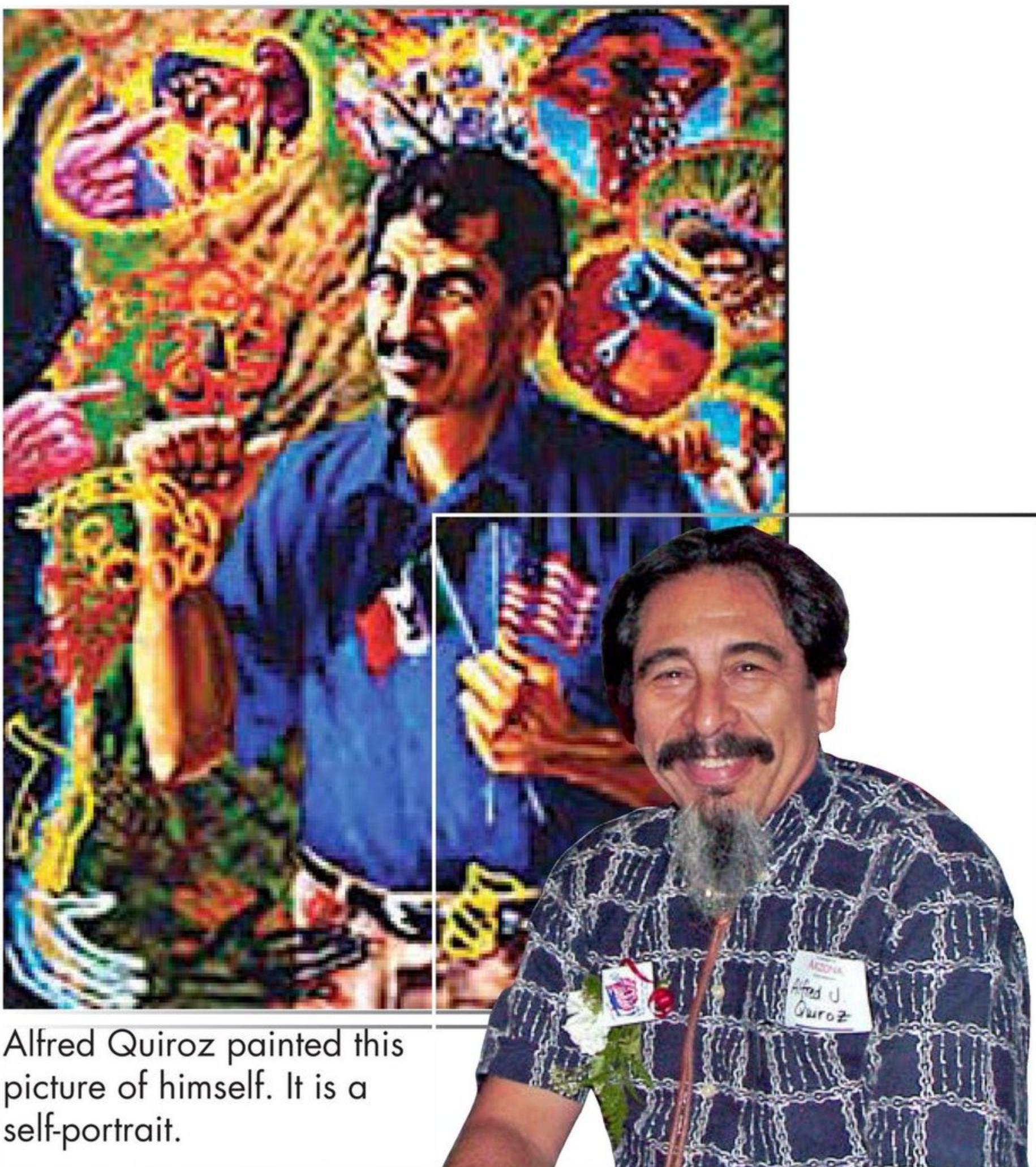




## Introduction

Art is all around us, in many different forms. Different types of artists make different art. Some use paint, paper, glass, or clay. Others use stone, computers, or even plants. An artist can make almost anything into art.





Alfred Quiroz painted this picture of himself. It is a self-portrait.

## Painters

The most familiar kind of artist is a painter. Some painters paint objects or famous people. Most painters use a brush. Some painters splash, spray, or drip paint. Others paint with odd liquids, such as mud.

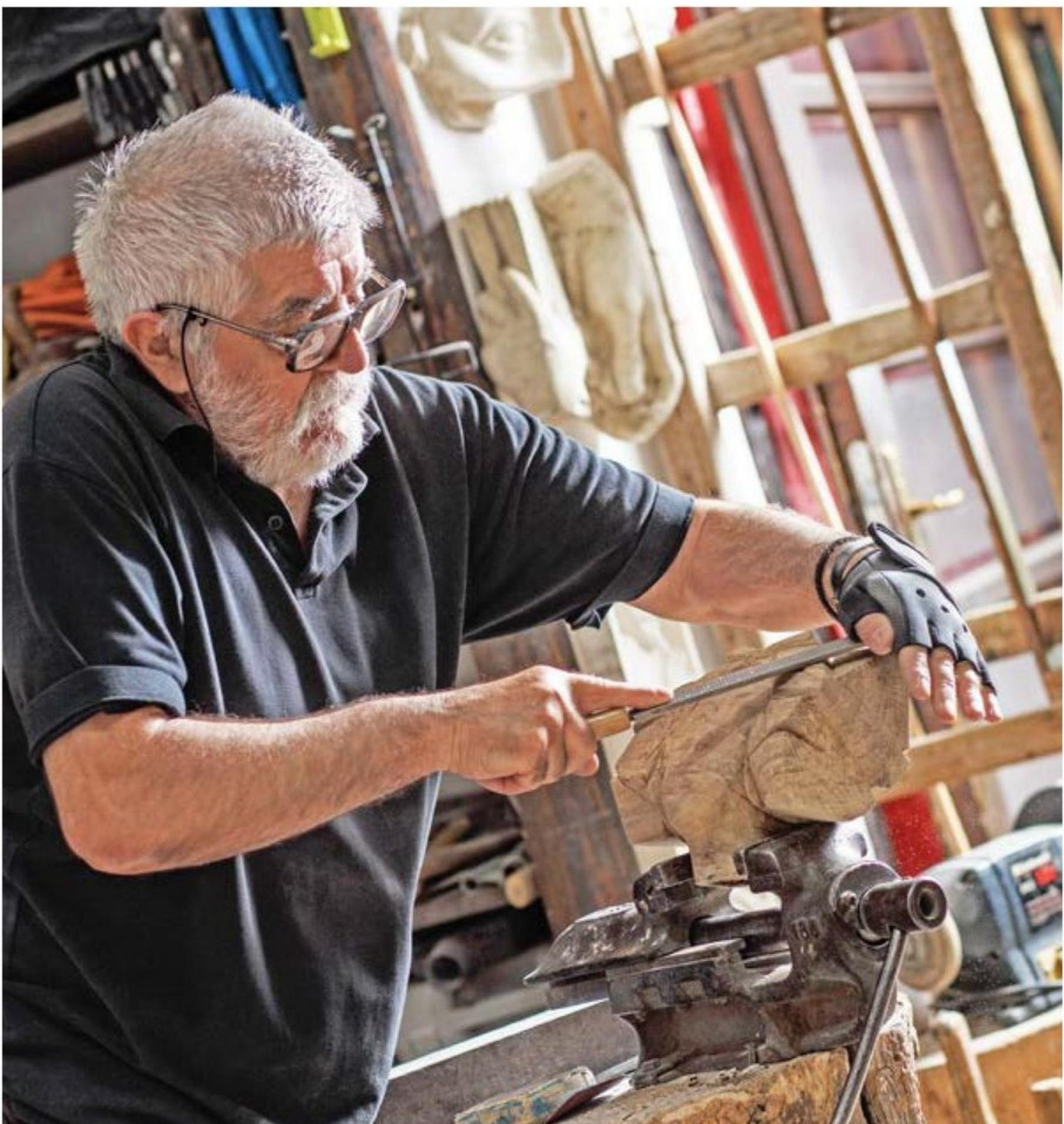


Mural on a wall

Painters paint on every type of surface. Some paint on dishes, windows, or furniture. Many painters create **murals**. Murals are large paintings painted onto a wall or the side of a building.

# Sculptors

Some sculptors use sharp tools to carve shapes into wood, stone, ice, or wax. Others make **soft sculptures**. They weave fabrics, yarns, or strips of leather. Some sculptors **cast** shapes and statues in metal.



Wood sculptor



Metal casting in bronze

To cast a metal sculpture, first sculptors carve a clay model of the shape. Then they cover the clay shape with wet plaster, which dries and hardens—like the cast on a broken arm—into a mold. Then they pour hot, liquid metal into the hard plaster mold. The liquid metal cools and hardens. Then sculptors remove the plaster mold from the sculpture. They can now polish their artwork.

# Potters

Potters make art with soft, wet clay. Their art is pottery. Potters put a lump of wet clay on a **pottery wheel** that spins very fast. Potters use their hands to pinch, push, and pull the lump of clay into the shape they want.



Forming clay pottery



Baking clay pottery

The clay shape is baked in a very hot oven called a **kiln**. The heat bakes all the water out of the clay. When it's dry, the baked clay is called **ceramic**. Artists use a special paint called a **glaze** to give the ceramic a shiny, colorful surface.

# Glassblowers

Glass is gooey when it melts, like heavy syrup. Glassblowers scoop up a blob of hot glass with a long, hollow metal tube, called a **blowpipe**. They blow air through the tube to make a glass bubble. While the glass is hot, they can rotate or swirl the bubble. They can make it as wide, long, thin, or tall as they want to.

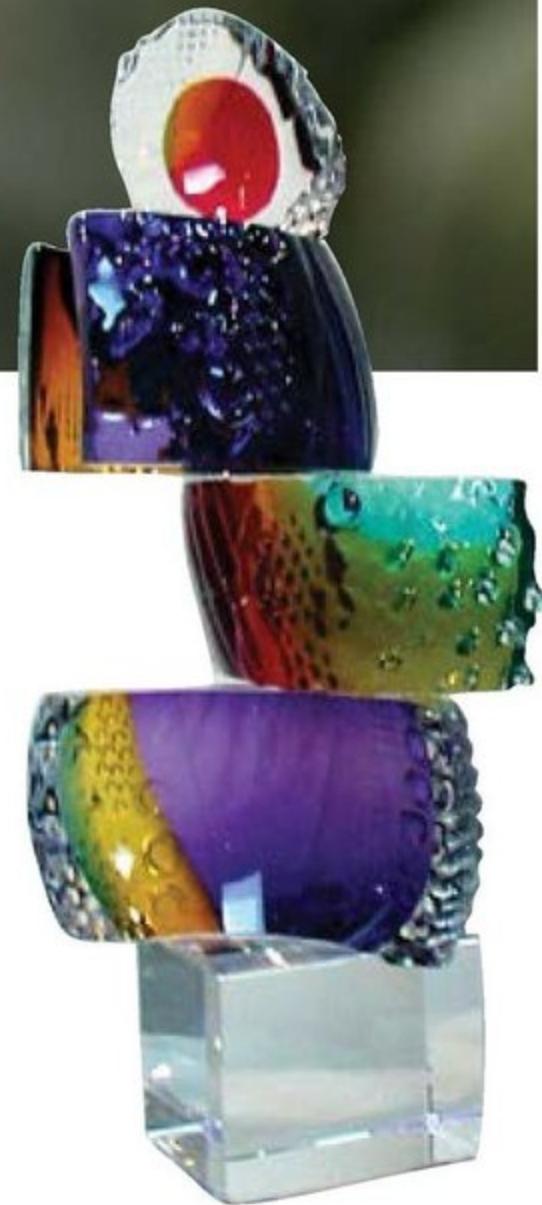


A glassblower shapes a ball of glass.



Hot glass is soft and can be shaped in many ways.

While the glass is soft, it's easy to work with and to shape. Artists might add colorful streaks and swirls or a handle or knobs. Glassblowers work very quickly but must be very careful. When glass cools, it breaks easily.



A glass sculpture

# Fiber Artists

Thread, yarns, and fabric pieces are used to make fiber art. Weavers loop different yarns on a machine called a **loom**. They weave threads to make different designs.

Weavers create rugs, blankets, mats, wall hangings, and fabrics for clothing.



Weaving loom



Patterned quilts and dolls are popular forms of fiber art.

Quilters make art from pieces of cut fabric. They sew the pieces together to make quilts. Years ago, new fabric was expensive. People saved money by using fabric scraps to make their bed covers. They made beautiful designs by stitching together the pieces in creative ways.

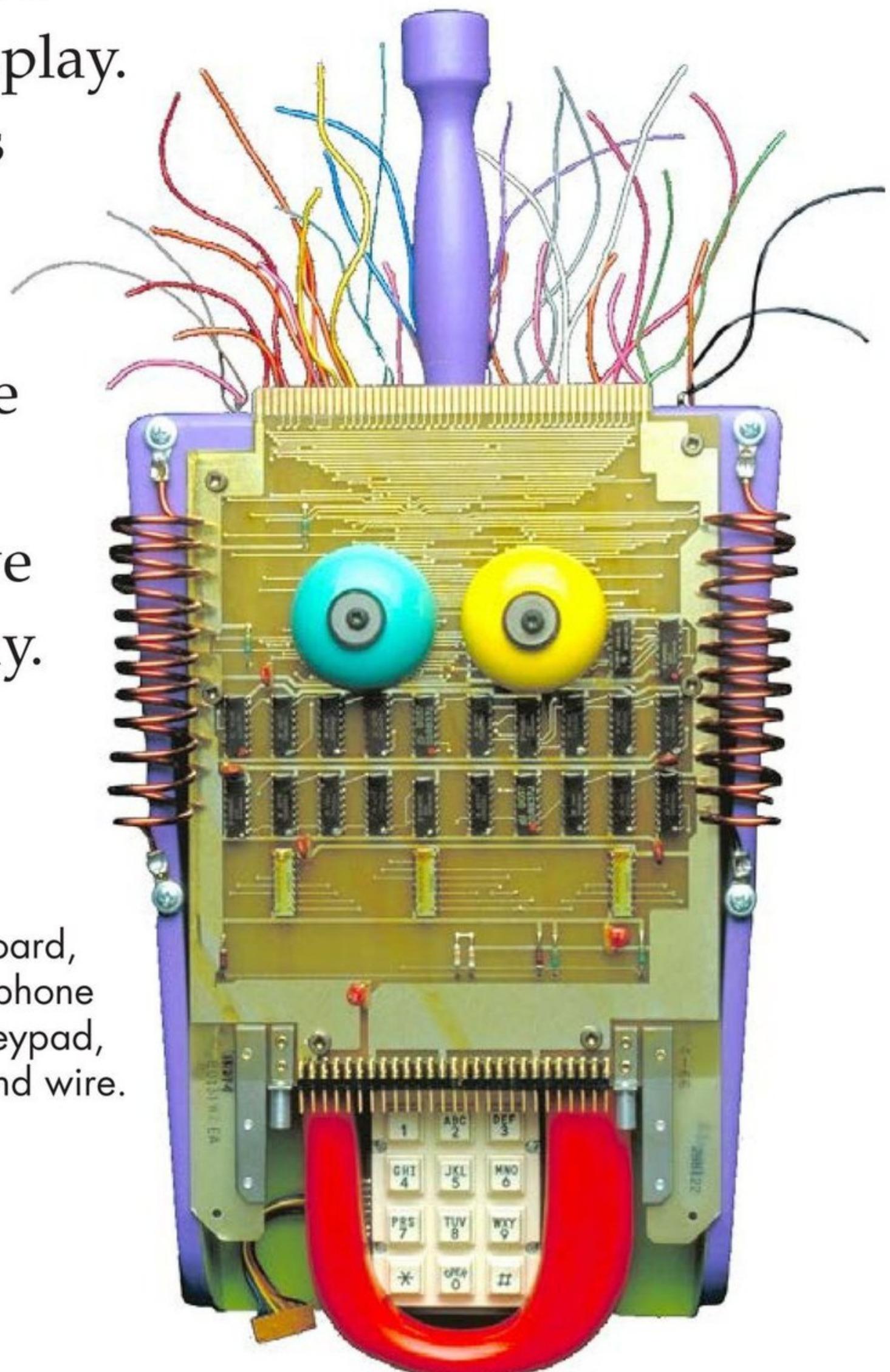


## Unusual Art

Some artists make **found object art** out of junk, car parts, old toys, wire, and other scrap materials. Other artists take an everyday object, like a water fountain, and put it in a museum display.

These artists want us to look more closely at the designs of the things we see every day.

An artist made this funny face using a wooden cutting board, a circuit board, telephone bells, a telephone keypad, industrial springs, and wire.

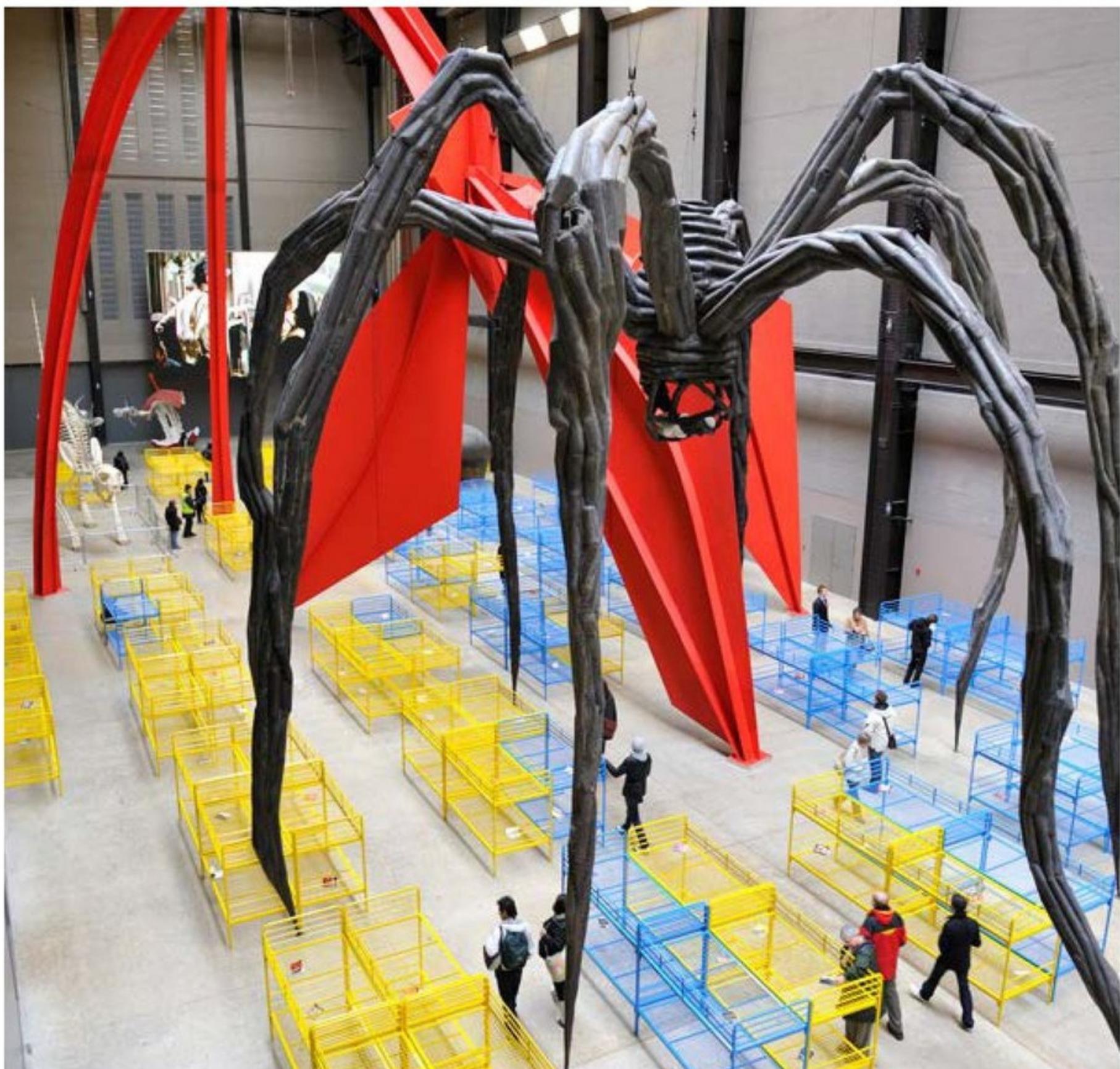




Many sand castles are true works of art.

Many artists like to use natural objects to make art. Some create huge shapes on beaches using rocks and sand. Others collect beautifully shaped driftwood to build sculptures. Some artists use branches, rocks, and plants to make imaginative shapes in a garden or park.

**Installations** are entire rooms or buildings that have been made into works of art. The artist fills the room with objects, colors, shapes, sounds, and lights to create a special feeling. Installation artists want you to walk around inside. They want you to look at and touch parts of their room-sized work of art.



An installation uses a whole room to make art.



An ancient cave drawing

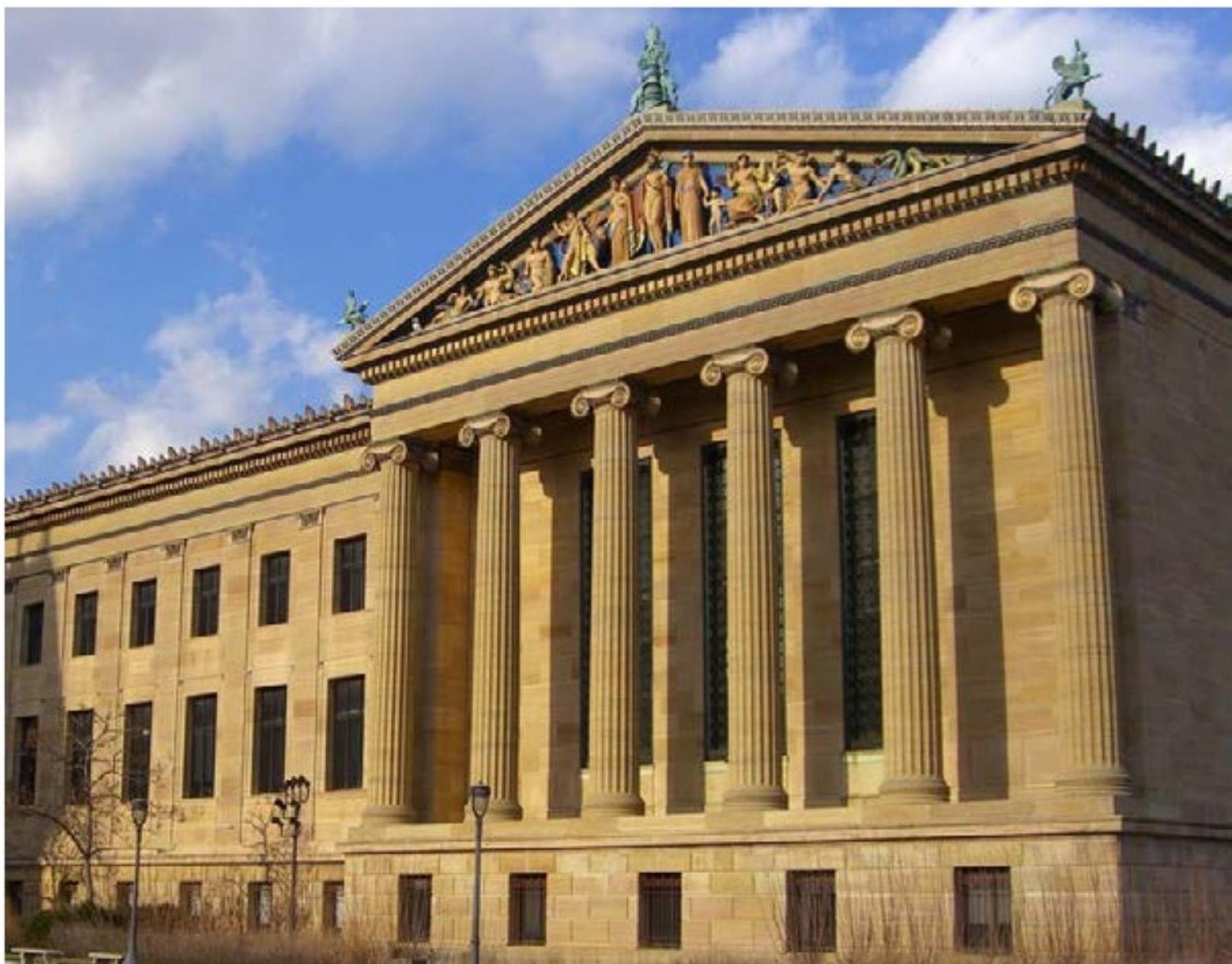
## Where Art Is Found

The oldest art was painted in caves or scratched into rocks. These very simple images tell stories about what life was like long ago. Scientists digging in ancient ruins find pottery, wall murals, carvings, and tile **mosaic** floors, and other works by early artists.



A Pueblo pot

Art is everywhere. Explore your town. Find different types of art. Visit museums, galleries, and art fairs where artists show their work.



(top) Art museum. (bottom) Public art comes in many shapes and sizes.



(top) A mural of a lighthouse creates an interesting illusion.  
(bottom) Elephant sculptures add fun to a park.

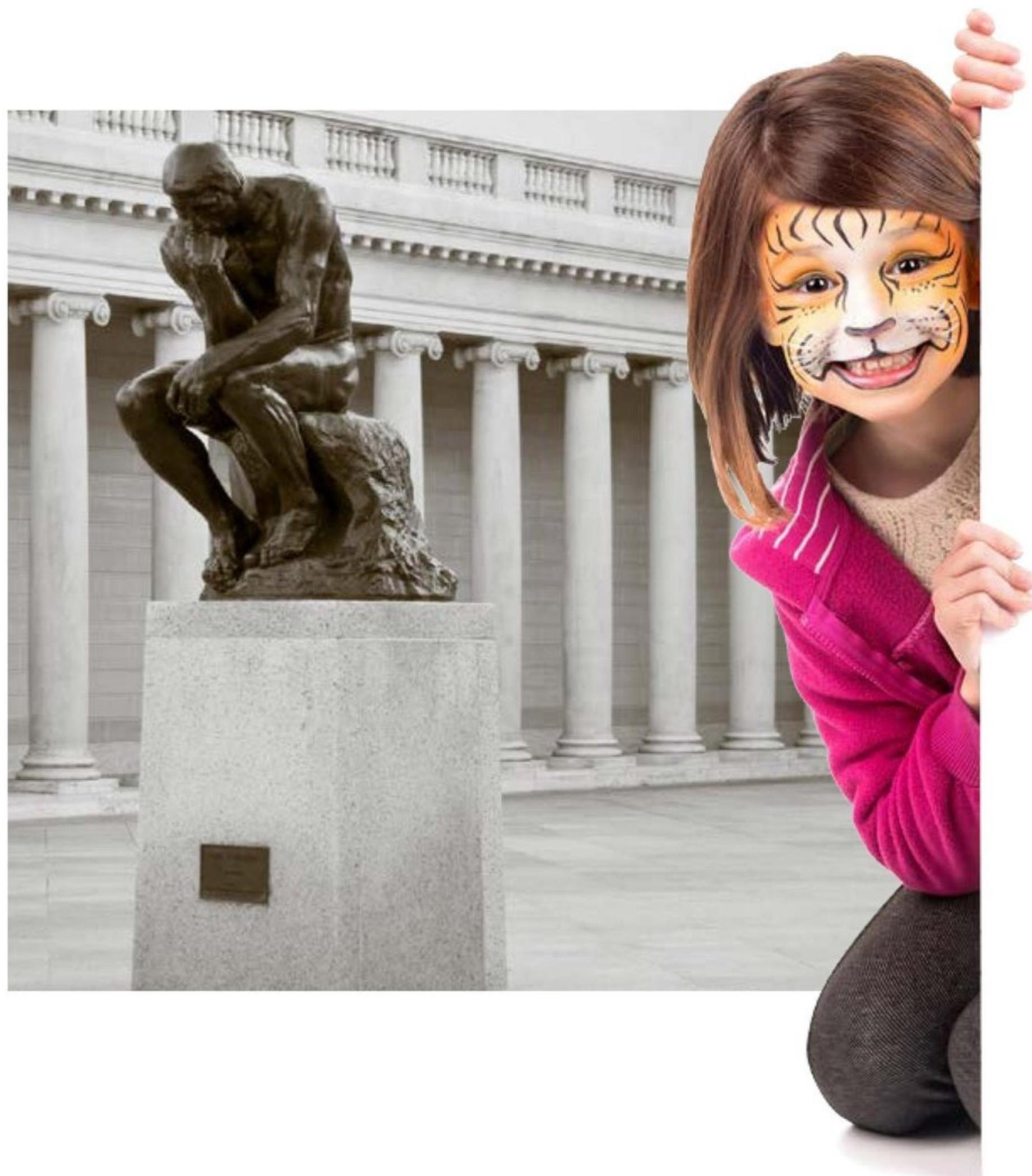
Look for art. It's all around you. Find outdoor sculptures in a park and murals you can see while on a walk or a bike ride.

You can make your own art, too. Use colored chalks to draw on sidewalks. Use clay to sculpt shapes. Make a snow sculpture or a sand castle. Glue pieces of shells, stones, and wood to a frame for a favorite photograph.



Art doesn't have to be serious or hard to do. Art can tell a story, or it can help you say how you feel. Or, it can just be interesting, funny, or beautiful.

Art makes our lives more fun. Look, and you will find art all around you. It's everywhere!



# Glossary

<b>blowpipe</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	long, hollow, metal tube used to blow air bubbles into melted glass (p. 12)
<b>cast</b> ( <i>v.</i> )	to pour hot metal into a mold (p. 8)
<b>ceramic</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	baked, dried clay that keeps its shape (p. 11)
<b>found object art</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	art made from everyday objects (p. 16)
<b>glaze</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a special paint that seals or decorates ceramics (p. 11)
<b>installations</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	entire rooms or buildings made into art (p. 18)
<b>kiln</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a hot oven where clay bakes into ceramic (p. 11)
<b>loom</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a machine that loops yarn into strips of fabric (p. 14)
<b>mosaic</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a picture made from tiny colored bits such as paper, tile, or beads (p. 19)
<b>murals</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	big paintings on walls or buildings (p. 7)
<b>pottery wheel</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a spinning wheel that forms clay into round shapes (p. 10)
<b>soft sculptures</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	sculptures made with fabric or other soft materials (p. 8)

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