What do you have to be able to do to appreciate sculpture?

Appreciation of sculpture depends upon the ability to respond to form in three dimensions.

That is perhaps why sculpture has been described as the most difficult of all arts; certainly, it is more difficult than the arts that involve an appreciation of flat forms and shapes in only two dimensions.

The child learning to see first distinguishes only two-dimensional shapes; it cannot judge distances or depths.

Later, for its personal safety and practical needs, it has to develop (partly using touch) the ability to judge roughly three-dimensional distances.

But having satisfied the requirements of practical necessity, most people go no further.

Though they may attain considerable accuracy in the perception of flat form, they do not make the further intellectual and emotional effort needed to comprehend form in its full spatial existence.

This is what the sculptor must do.

He must strive continually to think of and use the form in its full spatial completeness.

He gets the solid shape, as it were, inside his head—he thinks of it, whatever its size as if he were holding it completely enclosed in the hollow of his hand.

He mentally visualizes a complex form from all round itself; he knows while he looks at one side what the other side is like; he identifies himself with its centre of gravity, its mass, its weight; he realizes its volume, as the space that the shape displaces in the air.

And the sensitive observer of sculpture must also learn to feel shape simply as shape, not as description or reminiscence.

He must, for example, perceive an egg as a simple single solid shape, quite apart from its significance as food, or from the literary idea that it will become a bird.

And so with solids such as a shell, a nut, a plum, a pear, a tadpole, a mushroom, a mountain peak, a kidney, a carrot, a tree-trunk, a bird, a lark, a ladybird, a bulrush, a bone.

From there, he can go on to appreciate more complex forms or combinations of several forms.

When the author says that many people are ‘form-blind’, he means that they cannot appreciate the three-dimensional form.

This means that the person looking at a sculpture has to appreciate shapes as shapes, not as reproductions or representation of real things — objects, creatures, fruit, vegetables and so on.

A hologram is a representation of something in three dimensions or at least it looks like it: it has height, width, and seems to have depth.

Many games and sports involve two or more people playing against each other.

A football fan distinguishes the different teams by the colors they wear.

Their garden is roughly six meters by ten.

Even though some artists are still very young, they may attain considerable accuracy in the perception of shape and form.

We should all strive to make this world a better place.

I have never understood how an artist visualizes the things she paints.

The three possible combinations of two letters chosen from A, B, and C are AB, BC, and AC.

Sculpture is probably the most difficult of all arts because it demands an ability to respond to form in three dimensions.

Children learn to distinguish things in two dimensions, only later developing the ability to judge things in three dimensions.

Most people achieve considerable accuracy in appreciating flat form but rarely make the necessary effort to appreciate the full three-dimensional form.

This, however, is what the sculptor does: he thinks of and uses form in its full spatial completeness, and can see, in his mind, the three-dimensional sculpture from all sides.

The arts cannot be enjoyed unless one has specialized knowledge of them.

To say that one cannot enjoy the arts without possessing specialized knowledge is a little like saying that one cannot enjoy driving a sports car without understanding exactly what goes on under the bonnet, or enjoy playing a computer game without understanding how it has been programmed.

Large numbers of people enjoy listening to music, reading novels and poetry, watching stage plays, and admiring pictures or sculpture without knowing anything at all about the technical difficulties involved in creating works of art.

It has been pointed out that there is a difference between ‘appreciation’ and ‘enjoyment’.

In order to appreciate fully a work of art, one probably needs to have a great deal of specialized knowledge.

One needs to have some insight into the creative process.

On the other hand, in order simply to enjoy a work of art, no such knowledge is necessary.

Nevertheless, it should not be forgotten that a certain amount of specialized knowledge can certainly increase one’s enjoyment since a trained mind knows what to look for.

On the other hand, of course, specialized knowledge can have a negative effect.

It can diminish a listener’s, reader’s, or viewer’s enjoyment since it may make that person hypercritical and interfere with a natural response.

Artists, sculptors, composers, poets, novelists, and playwrights rarely create works of art only for those who have specialized knowledge.

Most of them create their art in order to communicate with large numbers of people, not just an inner group, or even their own fellow artists.

If it were necessary to possess specialized knowledge to enjoy the arts, and all artists created just for them, then only those people directly involved in the arts would be able to enjoy them, and that is untrue.

Having asked her to call me, I’ve decided not to call her.

Having reached a certain level in English, many students give up.

Having read his letter three times, I decided not to answer it.

He acted as if he were the manager.

He wasn’t the manager!

He talked as if he had a plum in his mouth.

He didn’t have a plum in his mouth!

It looked as if it were snowing outside.

It might have looked like it, but it wasn’t snowing!

I wish to express my appreciation for the numerous courtesies extended to me by the company.

Your estimation of the time needed seems about right.

We have to distinguish carefully between fact and legend.

I don’t perceive any improvement in the economy.

What depth is this well?

Up till now, we have known more about Space than about the deeps/depths of the oceans on this planet.

Coal is being displaced by natural gas as a major source of energy.

They are replacing the old windows with double glazing.

There is not a single public phone in the village.

Each person’s fingerprints are unique.

It is more difficult than the arts, which involve an appreciation of flat forms.

A new golf club has just been formed in our district.

How many children are there in your form?

I don’t feel like playing tennis. I haven’t been in very good form lately.

There were not enough chairs to go around, so we had to sit on forms.

Would you please fill up this form?

What is your new school like?

What was the weather like yesterday?

Sculpture has been described as the most difficult of the arts because it is not two-dimensional.

We all learn about three dimensions as a matter of practical necessity and no more.

A sculptor must be able to think of their sculpture viewed from every angle.

The important thing for a sculptor is the appreciation of the form of objects.

A lot more people are ‘form-blind’.

But when it has satisfied the requirements of practical necessity.

He knows, as he looks at one side, what the other side is like.

And so with solids like shells.

It depends on the ability to react to form in three dimensions.

The child learning to see first makes out only two-dimensional shapes.

They do not make the additional intellectual effort.

He must learn to feel shape not as a description or something remembered.