

University of Warwick Art Collection

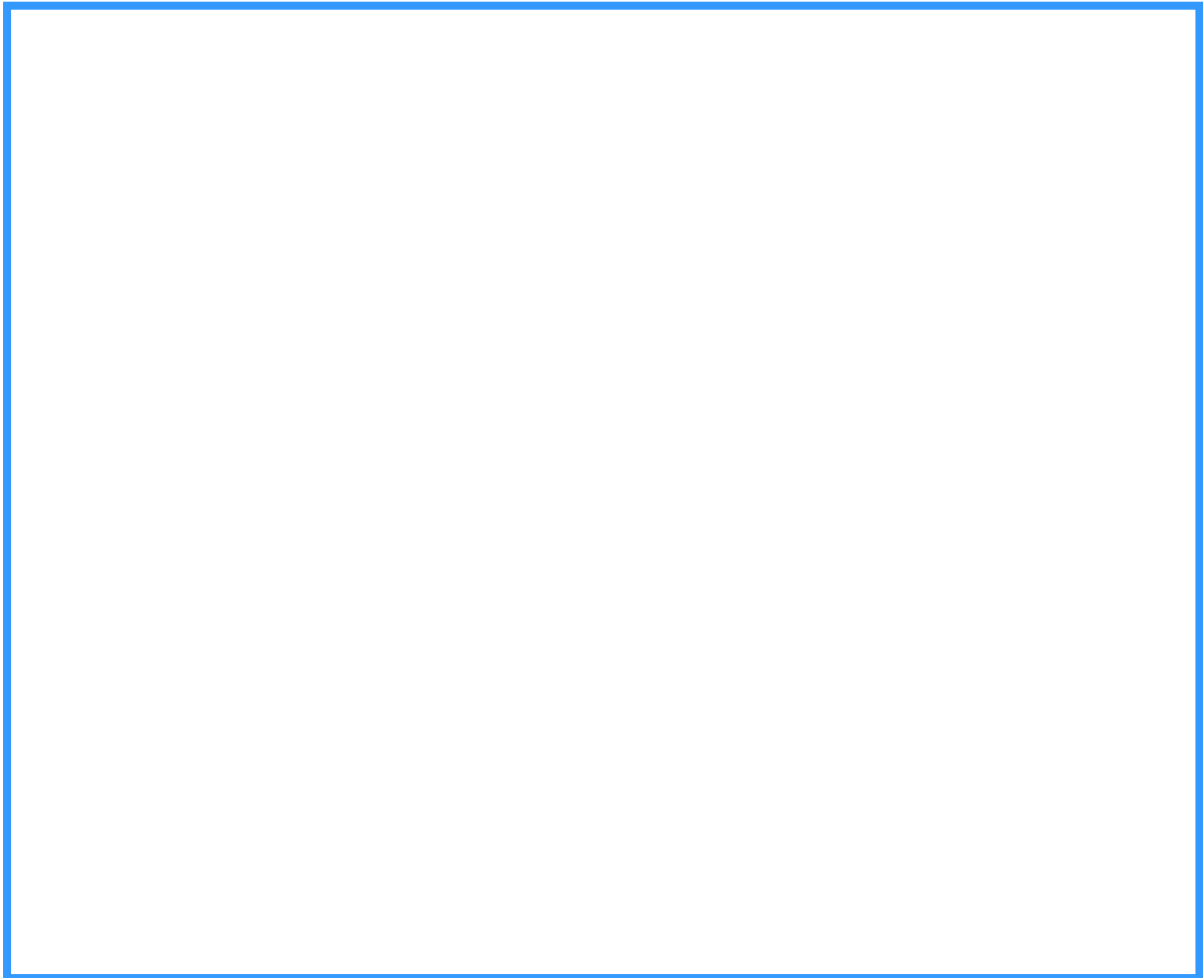
Family Art Activities

Forest Planet Sculptures

Senate House Lawn (by car park 7)

These sculptures were made by the Japanese artist **Atsuo Okamoto**. He drilled holes into them because he felt a creature might live inside each stone and would need air holes. One of the sculptures can hold water too.

Draw a picture of the creature that might live inside one of the *Forest Planet* sculptures. Do you think the creatures are different inside the different *Forest Planets*? Show your family how you think these creatures would move.



Turn over for other things to do and more information

More information

These sculptures are made from a type of rock called **basalt**. Basalt is made by volcanoes. At a volcano, some rocks under the earth's surface, including basalt, become so hot that they melt. When this melted rock is pushed to the surface, it pours out over an area and then cools down and becomes solid rock again. The black areas on the face of the moon are basalt.

These basalt boulders were probably formed by volcanoes near Japan, about 14 million years ago. At this time, dinosaurs had died out on earth but there were prehistoric animals, fish and birds.

Atsuo Okamoto believes that stones contain memories. In his **Turtle Project**, he split a stone sculpture into smaller parts using a traditional Japanese carving technique known as *Wari Modoshi* (in English it means "splitting and returning"). These sections were then sent out to friends all around the world. The different parts were returned to the artist after a few years and the sculpture was put back together again. The changes in the stones, the way that the edges had been rubbed smooth or the surfaces scratched through handling, show the different things that happened to each of them.

More things to do

Make a guide book

What might a Forest Planet look like? What other creatures might live there? What are things called? Make a guide book to your Forest Planet with maps and pictures of everything you might find there and descriptions of what happens on the planet.

Make your own volcano.

First, ask your family where would be safe for you to do this. You will need:

- a small plastic bottle. *You can build around this bottle with play dough to make it look like a volcano or you can just go for the eruption.*
- 125 ml warm water
- 125 ml vinegar
- a big squeeze of washing up liquid
- red or yellow food colouring
- 30g bicarbonate of soda
- a small piece of thin tissue paper (toilet paper will do).

Put your bottle somewhere that the eruption will not cause any damage. Outdoors, on a tray is a good idea. Put the warm water, vinegar, washing up liquid and food colouring in the bottle. When you are ready for the eruption, wrap the bicarbonate of soda in the tissue and drop into the volcano. **Stand back.** As the tissue dissolves, the bicarbonate of soda will react with the vinegar and cause the eruption.

To find out more about the University of Warwick Art Collection visit
www.warwick.ac.uk/go/art