In Her Hands: The Story of Sculptor Augusta Savage

As a young girl in Florida in the 1890s, Augusta enjoyed nothing more than playing with clay. She would sculpt it into little figures: co...

Associated with teaching about her specifically, we focused on the element of art: FORM.

An Element of Art

Form is one of the seven elements of art which are the visual tools that an artist uses to compose a work of art. In addition, to form, they include line, shape, value, color, texture, and space. As an Element of Art, form connotes something that is three-dimensional and encloses volume, having length, width, and height, versus shape, which is two-dimensional, or flat. A form is a shape in three dimensions, and, like shapes, can be geometric or organic.

Geometric forms are forms that are mathematical and can be named, such as: sphere, cube, pyramid, cone, and cylinder. A circle becomes a sphere in three dimensions, a square becomes a cube, a triangle becomes a pyramid or cone. Geometric forms are most often found in architecture.

Organic forms are those that are free-flowing, curvy, sinewy, and are not symmetrical or easily measurable or named. Organic forms often occur in nature, as in the shapes of flowers, leaves, clouds, animals, the human figure/form.

https://americanart.si.edu/artist/augusta-savage-4269
Augusta Savage always knew she wanted to be an artist and moved to New York City in 1920 with a “burning desire” to “become a sculptor in six months.” She enrolled at the Cooper Union and in 1929 won a scholarship to travel to Paris and Rome. She returned to New York in the middle of the Depression and was instrumental in getting the Works Progress Administration to include black ... americanart.si.edu