

# WALKING SCULPTURE TOUR AT THE RIDGES

If you've been looking for an outdoor activity that will get you moving, the walking sculpture tour at The Ridges will be perfect for a little physical activity. You will explore two sculptures while walking around The Ridges and enjoying nature.

You will begin the tour on the front steps of the Kennedy Museum of Art and walk to the first sculpture, *Family* by David Deming. Stand on the front steps, facing away from the museum (toward the road/parking lot). Turn to the left and (watching for cars) follow the brick road. Once you pass the first cluster of trees and bushes, you should see the sculpture in the grass opening.



## SCULPTURE #1: *Family* by David Deming

David Deming is a nationally recognized sculptor who grew up in Lakewood, Ohio, near Cleveland. Deming retired after a career as both a teacher and art administrator (1968 – 2010) and continues making sculptures in his studio located in Cleveland. His art includes both abstract and figurative styles, and Deming enjoys making sculptures of dogs and abstract bouquets. His work is kept in both public and private collections and can even be found in hospitals and recreation centers. His sculpture, *Family*, was donated to the Kennedy Museum of Art in 2008.

For more information, click [here](#).

### ACTIVITY #1:

As you view the sculpture, think about and discuss the following questions with other participants:

Walk around the sculpture. What do you see?  
Why do you think the sculpture is named "*Family*"?  
What does a family consist of?  
What does family mean to you?

### ACTIVITY #2:

After viewing *Family* by David Deming, you are ready to move on to the second sculpture of the tour, *Gold Butte* by Deborah Butterfield. As you walk, take some time to notice what's around you. Do you see any of these things?

- Something blue
- Something new
- Something broken
- Something tiny
- Something old
- Something giant

To get to the second sculpture, start at the first sculpture facing away from it (toward the road). Turn to the left and continue walking along the road until you reach the end of the parking lot. Cross the street and walk up the stepped pathway between the two brick buildings. Right after passing the buildings, you should see the second sculpture in the grass off to the right.

## SCULPTURE #2: *Gold Butte* by Deborah Butterfield

Deborah Butterfield has been creating sculptures of horses out of scrap materials since 1973 and has been noted for adding impeccable details to represent the anatomy of a horse's body. The artist has stated that she began creating horse sculptures as a form of self-portraits. Her fascination with horses quickly turned into creating sculptures that recognize the animals as "independent beings of elegance, power and existential meaning." Butterfield pays great attention to how she places materials to create volume and space needed to define the muscles of a horse's body. This sculpture was made in 2003 and cast in bronze.

For more information, click [here](#).



## ACTIVITY #3:

As you view *Gold Butte*, imagine you are an artist and you are creating a sculpture to add somewhere near The Ridges. What materials would you use to create the piece to make it fit with other sculptures around the area? Where would you install this piece? Take a picture of where you would place your sculpture. When you get back home you can create a drawing of your site from your photograph and add your sculpture.

Both of these sculptures are part of a [mAppAthens Art Stroll Tour](#). To connect to other tours on The Ridges, here are some links:

[Kid's Nature Hike](#)

[The Ridges History Loop](#)

[The Ridges Land Use History Tour](#)

After your outdoor walking tour you can complete the activities below at The Ridges or at home!

## ACTIVITY #4:

Deborah Butterfield created horse sculptures as "self portraits." What animal would you use as your "self portrait?" Collect items from around the house or outside to create an animal sculpture that could represent your self portrait. Think about how Deborah Butterfield used sticks and metal materials to create depth and muscles in the horse sculpture. How will you use the materials to create the animal and bring it to life? What does this sculpture mean to you?

## ACTIVITY #5:

In his sculpture *Family*, David Deming uses simple shapes, lines, and curves to suggest the forms of human figures. Using paper and a writing utensil try to draw the members of your family without lifting your writing utensil from the paper (making it one continuous line). To get some really silly results, try closing your eyes while you draw. If you have craft wire at home, try making a 3D version of your line drawing!