



THE CITY SPEAKS | Michael Pinsky

THE ARTIST

Michael Pinsky was born in Scotland and now lives and works in London. From 1988 until 1991 Pinsky studied at Brighton Polytechnic for a BA (Hons) in Visual and Performing Arts. He continued his education at the Royal College of Art where he completed an MA in Fine Art. He then went on to complete his doctorate in Fine Art at the University of East London from 1997 until 2000. He has exhibited across the world.

THE WORK

Pinsky has produced an interactive piece of text-based artwork that runs up the Hull tidal barrier. The words will transform the barrier and will be created by the viewer. Pinsky's work is difficult to pin down in one particular genre; he uses the display space as a starting point for the work he produces, often working alongside the community to provide artwork.

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CURRICULUM LINKS

In School:

- ◆ Think of a neglected area in your school, what would you do to improve it? What sort of artwork would enhance the space? How would the work reflect the issues that the space had originally?
- ◆ Look at the signage around your school. Is there a common font/style of lettering? Could you improve this? Could you make some subversive signage to lead people astray in school or instil some humour in the dullest of places in school?
- ◆ Cut up magazines and newspapers, making your own 'ransom' note for your favourite toy.
- ◆ Develop a set of drawings overlapping text and creating abstract shapes within them, use a viewfinder to enlarge a small section of your drawing and make it even more abstract.
- ◆ Write a joke on a post it note and leave it around school to brighten someone's day. On it ask them to carry it on.
- ◆ Try and make comic sans interesting and creative

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CURRICULUM LINKS

At the work:

- ◆ Can you walk all the way around and up to the work?
- ◆ Interact with the work? Is it possible to get your words on the sculpture? What would you say?
- ◆ What interesting viewpoints can you find and document? What is the most suitable way of documenting the installation?
- ◆ Would the work look and feel different at different times of the day?
- ◆ How does this work link with its environment and specifically with Hull in your opinion?
- ◆ Look at the work; can you work out how it has been put together? Do you recognise any of the materials used? What effect does this have?
- ◆ What font does the artist use in the work? How does this make you feel as a viewer?

LOOK UP |

SEASON: MADE IN HULL / ROOTS & ROUTES | **SUBJECT:** ART & DESIGN (KS3 & KS4)

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GCSE AND A LEVEL



Describe in detail what you see? What materials has the artist used? What effect does the piece of work have? How might you incorporate the materials or ideas into your own work? Make a detailed annotated drawing of the piece of work. Find an interesting viewpoint and take a series of three photographs.



Experiment with social and keyboard symbols to create your own piece of work in response to Pinsky's work.



Make detailed notes about the sculpture, commenting on materials used, composition, situation, how the sculpture relates to its environment and make sketches to back up your writing.



Make notes about the text that is displayed on the sculpture. Listen to the people looking at the sculpture and note down what they are saying about it.



Take photographs from around the sculpture and also of the sculpture in its surroundings.

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LITERACY KEYWORDS

TEXT

INTERACTIVE

LANGUAGE

PROJECTION

INSTALLATION

COMMUNITY

ABSTRACT

DOCUMENT

GENRE

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OTHER ARTISTS TO LINK TO

JENNY
HOLZER

IAN
HAMILTON
FINLAY

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