

EXPLORER'S GUIDE

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SPACE

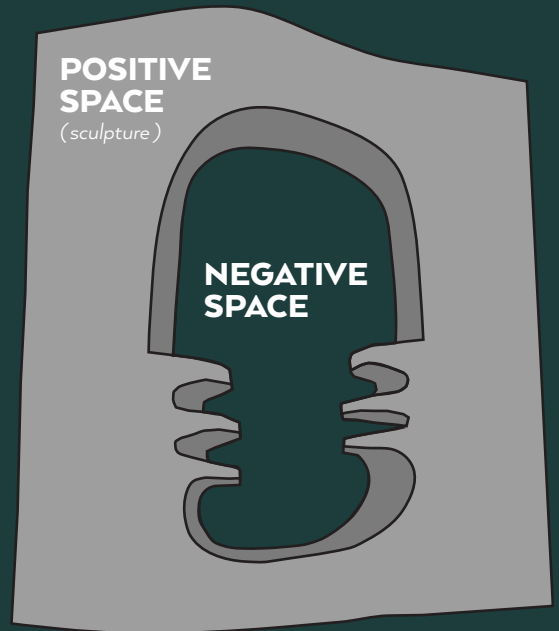
INTRODUCTION

Artists think about positive and negative space when creating an artwork be it a painting, sculpture, photograph or other medium.

In sculpture the **positive** space is solid (the sculpture itself) and the **negative** space is the area around it.

The illustration of *Arch II* by Elizabeth Strong-Cuevas on the right is a great example of negative space within a sculpture.

NEGATIVE SPACE



OBSERVE

As you walk around, take a closer look at positive and negative spaces of the sculptures and what you see. Is the sculpture solid or are there negative spaces within the sculpture itself?

(Think of a bagel – the bagel is the positive space, and the hole and surrounding area is the negative space)

What happens if you frame/place yourself in the negative space?

Look at the sculpture from all sides. How does the negative space change?

Are there any shadows or shapes created by the negative space?

Imagine what it would look like if the positive and negative spaces were reversed.

REFLECT

How does positive and negative space affect the balance of an artwork?

Artists play with negative and positive space in the creation process.

Why do you think this relationship is important in the sculptures you see today at Grounds For Sculpture?

The plant is the positive space