

LEARNING RESOURCE

'Opening Doors' for Young People

Summary

Explore Dora House in virtual reality with your class, keeping your eyes peeled for the unique architectural features and fascinating historic details. Then take inspiration from our Autumn 2023 exhibition 'Making Together' to create fantastical creatures in 3D. Send images of your artworks to our Community Engagement Officer Abbie (learning@sculptors.org.uk) for a chance to get your designs displayed in our virtual reality tour.



Lesson Objectives

- Exploration and Investigation of a gallery space - What can you see?
- Gallery collaboration – how do artists get their work into galleries?
- Use artists and their peers for inspiration to explore artists' work. Leslie Thompson and Eleni Maragaki.

What you will need

Access to the 360 Virtual Tour. This could be through VR headsets, an immersive classroom, a projector or individual computers/ laptops/ tablets.

[You can find the tour here](#)

Sculpture making materials such as clay, paper, foil and card. (You can make use of waste materials to be extra sustainable!)

Lesson Plan:

Starter

Go to www.sculptors.org.uk/visit/dora-house-360deg
Here you will find our virtual reality tour of Dora House.

Click the play button and use the first slide of the tour to help you understand the controls and icons, and how to navigate the tour. Once you are ready, click the button that reads 'Start the Virtual Tour'.

Fill in the activity sheet on the next page as you explore Dora House.

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Draw!

Can you find and draw 3 things you can see in the house?

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Write!

Can you write down 3 interesting facts about Dora House and/or the people who have lived and worked there?

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Discuss!

In pairs, or as a whole class, can you answer the following questions.

What did you notice in Dora House?

What did you learn about Dora House?

How do you think the VR tour is different to actually visiting?

Did you notice any empty walls? How could we fill them?

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Introduce Topic/ Content

In Dora House 360 you will have been able to explore the Salon, one of the rooms that make up our gallery at the Royal Society of Sculptors. In our current shows 'Making Together' 2023, two artists, Eleni Maragaki and Leslie Thompson are display their work in this room, in a show produced collaboratively and titled *Fantastic animals, jungles and mountains from Africa, Greece and beyond*.

As part of this show, Leslie made a series of ceramic animals, sculpted from memory, and taught Eleni how to make these too. On display you can see a number of Leslie's creations, including a Brown Bear, a Greek Cat, a Purple Goat and a Greek Tortoise. Leslie also helped Eleni to make a Puma and an African Tree.



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Activity

Challenge your students to create their own sculptural animal inspired by the examples above. You might like to ask them to work in groups and collaborate, just as the artists in the 'Making Together' show did.

Conclusion

Ask the students to complete self and peer evaluations so that they can share their thoughts and feelings on the project.

What do they feel went well and what could have gone better?

Email images of your students work to our Community Engagement Officer Abbie at learning@sculptors.org.uk to have it displayed in our virtual tour Dora House 360.

Extend & Develop

- Ask students to combine elements of multiple animals in their sculpture to create their own creature.
- In a prior lesson you could make VR goggles from cardboard and use your smartphones to view the tour in a more immersive format.
- Why not showcase your class's collaboration in your school newsletter, social media or assembly?

Further Resources

[Dora House 360 Virtual Tour](https://sculptors.org.uk/visit/dora-house-360deg) (<https://sculptors.org.uk/visit/dora-house-360deg>)

Guide for Teachers (coming soon)

[Find out more about Eleni & Leslie's collaboration on 'Making Together' here.](https://artetal.org/peer-to-peer/collab-12)
(<https://artetal.org/peer-to-peer/collab-12>)