ALEXANDER LIBERMAN

ARGOSY, 1980

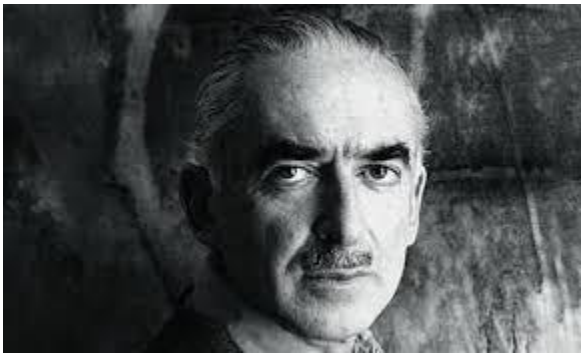
Painted Steel
363 x 228 x 144 inches

Consists of 7 ellipses of the same size, and shape welded together.

The sculpture seems to defy gravity and the actual weight of the structure.

There is an emphasis on the relationship between positive and. negative space.

About the Artist:



Wikipedia.org

born Kiev, Russia (now Kiev, Ukraine) 1912-died Miami, FL 1999

Alexander Liberman was born in Kiev, Russia, and grew up in Paris. His mother wanted him to be an artist, but he studied philosophy, mathematics, and architecture before turning to painting. Liberman was the managing editor of the French magazine *VU*, and also worked part-time in an architect's office making illustrations of gardens. With the outbreak of World War II, he fled to the United States, where he got a job working for *Vogue*. By 1962, Liberman was the editorial director for all Condé Nast publications in the United States and Europe, and he and his wife, Tatiana, were style setters in fashionable Manhattan society. He divided his time between the office and the studio, explaining that he thought of art as a dangerous full-time profession because it would be very easy to become "trapped" into doing the same type of work all of the time.

Objectives:

- Student will learn about the artist and the influences in his artistic career.
- Students will explore the work of Alexander Liberman and will follow the engineering process (design, create, test) to manipulate materials to create a paper sculpture inspired by it.

Essential Question:

What are some of the challenges artists have to overcome when creating a three dimensional work of art compared to a two dimensional work of art?

Activity:

Follow the engineering process to create a free-standing sculpture using paper rolls. The structure should be at least twelve inches tall and use no more than ten paper rolls

Materials: recycled paper, glue, board

Samples of student work

Steam Connections/ Standards

Science: Life Science-Environmental issues, recycle, repurpose, reuse

Technology: Videos, presentations, sharing

Engineering: Problem solving, engineering process - Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool.

Art: Skills, Techniques and Processes, Organizational Structure

Math: Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Numbers and Operations, Measurements and Date, Geometry. Small scale to large scale.

Inquiry Questions:

- Alexander Liberman named this sculpture Argosy. The word Argosy means large ship. Why do you think he chose that name?
- Why is it important to recycle, repurpose and reuse materials?
- How can artists repurpose materials to create art?

Close Looking activity /warm up

- Ask students to look for 20 seconds and share what they see, what they think about what they see and what they wonder, questions they have?

Resources:

https://stormking.org/artist/alexander-liberman/

https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/alexander-liberman-a-definitively-modern-man

https://americanart.si.edu/artist/alexander-liberman-2928

http://www.artnet.com/artists/alexander-liberman/