

# BARRY FLANAGAN



Drummer (1996)

Barry Flanagan was born in Prestatyn in Wales in 1941 and studied at St Martin's College of Art. His early work included the use of humble materials such as sand, stone, hessian and rope. Flanagan's *Pile of blankets*, inspired by his wife's airing cupboard, sparked controversy at the Tate in 1976.

He produced his first bronze sculptures in 1979. His work usually represents animals, with the most iconic examples, being his popular hares. Twelve of his sculptures were displayed at Chatsworth in Sotheby's *Beyond Limits* Exhibition in the autumn of 2012.



Elephant (1986)



Hare leaping over curly bell (1989)

Some of Barry Flanagan's sculptures have been influenced by the work of classical artists.

The *Nijinski Hare* (1996) is based on *Nijinsky*, a well known sculpture by the artist Rodin, of a famous Russian dancer. He has also re-created a version of the *Thinker* also by Rodin.

Flanagan says the Hare "is rich and expressive." He is able to convey their spirit in the position of their limbs and ears. We can interpret human characteristics, such as joy, loneliness or cunning in many of his animal sculptures.

One of the stories relating to Flanagan's use of hares is that he simply saw one in a butcher's shop window, was fascinated by it, so he brought it home and conducted a series of studies. Several new editions of the hares have been made over the years using a variety of bases including a latticed pyramid, an upturned anvil and a model of the Empire State building.

Barry Flanagan's sculptures have been exhibited all over the world including Japan, Chicago, Paris, Germany, Madrid, and Dublin. Some of his permanent fixtures are *Hare on Bell* in the Equitable Life Tower West, New York, *Nine foot Hare* in the Victoria Plaza London and *Leaping Hare on a Crescent and Bell* at Broadgate, London.



Explore the sculpture *Drummer* from a variety of angles.

Look at the negative space as well as the lines created by the physical object.  
Choose an interesting angle from which to view it and create a continuous line sketch.

**Don't take your pencil off the paper!**

Attempt 1

Flanagan said the hare carries with it  
“*..the conventions of the cartoon and  
the investment of human attributes  
into the animal world.*”

## DISCUSS

What meaning and feeling do you  
think the Flanagan sculptures at  
Chatsworth convey?

How does your experience of seeing  
the sculptures in an outdoor location

## THINK

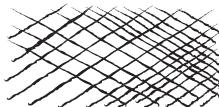
differ from viewing them in the formal  
setting of a gallery?

For more information visit the artist's  
website at [www.barryflanagan.com](http://www.barryflanagan.com)

## SOURCES

Also “*The man who sculpted Hares: Barry  
Flanagan, A life.*” BBC Four (Oct 2012)

Attempt 2



The rough texture of the  
Barry Flanagan's bronzes  
gives an added dimension to the sculptures.  
Look closely at the skin of *Elephant* and try and  
recreate a detail below using the crosshatch  
shading technique.