

# DAME ELISABETH FRINK



*Lying Down Horse*  
(1974)



Dame Elisabeth Frink was born in Sussex in 1930. She went to Art College in Guildford and then to the Chelsea School of Art. She went on to teach there as well as at the famous St. Martin's College of Art.

She is one of Britain's most famous female artists, becoming successful in the 1950's. She died in 1993.

Dame Elisabeth Frink was committed to making naturalistic forms.

Her sculptures are mainly figurative, concentrating on horses and male figures. These figures were used to convey different emotions like vulnerability and aggression.

Frink created outdoor sculptures in bronze. They are not smooth, but have a scratched surface. This effect was created by putting wet plaster onto a wire armature and sculpting it. The roughly modelled plaster was then carved into the finished shape.

The entire plaster sculpture was then cast in bronze. By doing this she was able to make four of the same sculpture.

Frink's sculptures are instantly recognisable. They reflect the traditional properties of bronze.



*Walking Madonna*  
(1981)

Dame Elisabeth Frink created figurative sculpture. This is any form of art that suggests the real world

*War Horse*  
(1991)



Dame Elisabeth Frink was awarded many public commissions in her lifetime, creating sculptures for public spaces and buildings worldwide.

Her last commission was *Risen Christ*, for Liverpool Cathedral.



The huge, mighty and muscular bronze sculpture of a War Horse may be powerful, but Frink also wants us to think about its purpose, carrying men into battle and what this meant.

## THINK

With this in mind, what other emotions does this sculpture evoke?

Dame Elisabeth Frink created her sculptures to be seen outside.

## DISCUSS

Does it matter where art is displayed?  
Do we consider it to be more worthy or respected if it is in a gallery setting?  
If so, why is that?

Knowing more information about a piece of art can make you think about it differently.

## THINK

How important do you think it is to understand what the artist intended to appreciate the meaning in a piece of art?

Dame Elisabeth Frink creates naturalistic forms.

Her sculptures are based on people and animals.

## DISCUSS

Do you think they are life-like?  
If not why do you think she chooses to represent them like this?

For more information about the artist visit:

[www.elisabethfrink-estate.com](http://www.elisabethfrink-estate.com)

## SOURCES

[www.sherbornehouse.org.uk/dame-elisabeth-frink/](http://www.sherbornehouse.org.uk/dame-elisabeth-frink/)

Dame Elisabeth Frink builds armatures (frameworks) to support the weight of the heavy wet plaster of her large sculptures before she cast in bronze.

Produce a line drawing of the Walking Madonna.  
Draw a considered armature inside your sculpture that would support the weight of the material.