



Literacy Link to the Arts

Linking literacy to our exhibitions offers another opportunity for exploring and connecting with the art in the galleries and on the grounds of the Arts Center. Enjoy the images and stories, and discover your own links to the arts.

Carl Peterson: The Sculpture Garden



Mini Arts Day Camp, July 2009. Carl Peterson, untitled (castle, detail), c. 1925-35; concrete, stones, paint, metal; 72 x 86 x 64 in. John Michael Kohler Arts Center Collection, gift of Kohler Foundation Inc.

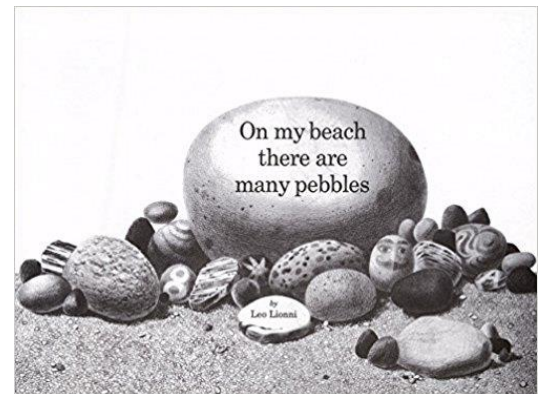
Carl Peterson, a native of Sweden who immigrated to the United States as a teenager, transformed his own yard in Minnesota into a marvelous sculpture garden of villages, castles, villas, and animals. Rows and rows of pebbles embellish many of his sculptures. Peterson was a self-taught artist. He used his experience as a blacksmith, cabinetmaker, stonemason, and railroad worker along with his imagination to create his sculptures.

To learn more about Carl Peterson and other built environments of vernacular artists, refer to the book *Sublime Spaces & Visionary Worlds* by Leslie Umberger, available in ARTspace.

On My Beach There Are Many Pebbles by Leo Lionni

Caldecott award-winning author/illustrator Leo Lionni takes readers on a beach walk through the pages of his book to discover ordinary and extraordinary pebbles. He teaches us that by looking closer and using our imaginations, we may see something more: people pebbles, number pebbles, letter pebbles, and animal pebbles. Take a closer look at Carl Peterson's sculptures in the Arts Center's Sculpture Garden. What do you notice?

Use your creativity to imagine who might live in these small buildings. Write your own story about your characters in the journal provided. Others may read your story, respond to it, or add to it. Observe, feel, stack, line up, and count the pebbles in the enclosed bag for inspiration.



Lionni, L. (1995). *On My Beach There Are Many Pebbles*. New York, NY: Mulberry Books.