

# Educator Notes

## Ugo Rondinone: moonrise. east. july

November 27, 2017–May 13, 2018



## About the Artist

Ugo Rondinone was born in Brunnen, Switzerland, in 1964, and lives and works in New York. He studied at the Hochschule für Angewandte Kunst, Vienna. Recent solo exhibitions have taken place at the Arken Museum of Modern Art, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, the Garage, Moscow (all 2017); the Bass Museum of Art, the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston (both 2016); and the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2015).

## About the Exhibition

Ugo Rondinone's *moonrise. east. july*—one of twelve sculptures representing each calendar month in the artist's *Moonrise* series—is a nearly nine-foot-tall bust of a masklike figure. Paying homage to the moon and its many changes and mythologies, each sculpture dons a different exaggerated expression, similar to the waxing and waning of the moon. First modeled in clay before being cast in aluminum and painted, some of these heads are inviting and playful, while others are more unsettling. In each of Rondinone's striking creations, the artist's hand is apparent through the texture of their fantastical shapes and enigmatic features.

## Questions for Discussion

- I What emotions does the face convey?
- I What do you think happened five minutes before the moment that was captured?
- I What do you notice about the texture? How would this sculpture change with a different texture?

## Suggested Activities

### Expressive Faces

Gather clay and an assortment of clay tools or small wooden tools that can be used to make marks on the clay (pencils, popsicle sticks, skewers, and nails).

Give each student four small balls of clay, about a handful each, and have students quickly shape each ball into a head and shoulders, with minimal features. Considering how emotions are often conveyed through facial expression, ask students to create expressive faces on each head.

For the first ball, focus on creating dramatic eyes and eyebrows. On the second, focus on the size, shape, and gesture of the nose. For the third, have students focus on the mouth, playing with lips, teeth, or tongue. For the last head, students should consider how the eyes, nose, and mouth work together to express an emotion or idea.

Once all four heads are completed, line up each student's last head with the most expressive eyes, noses, and mouths. See if students can identify the emotions conveyed. Discuss how people react to expressions differently.

Following page: Installation view: Ugo Rondinone, *moonrise. east. july*, 2017.  
Photo: Tony Prikryl

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