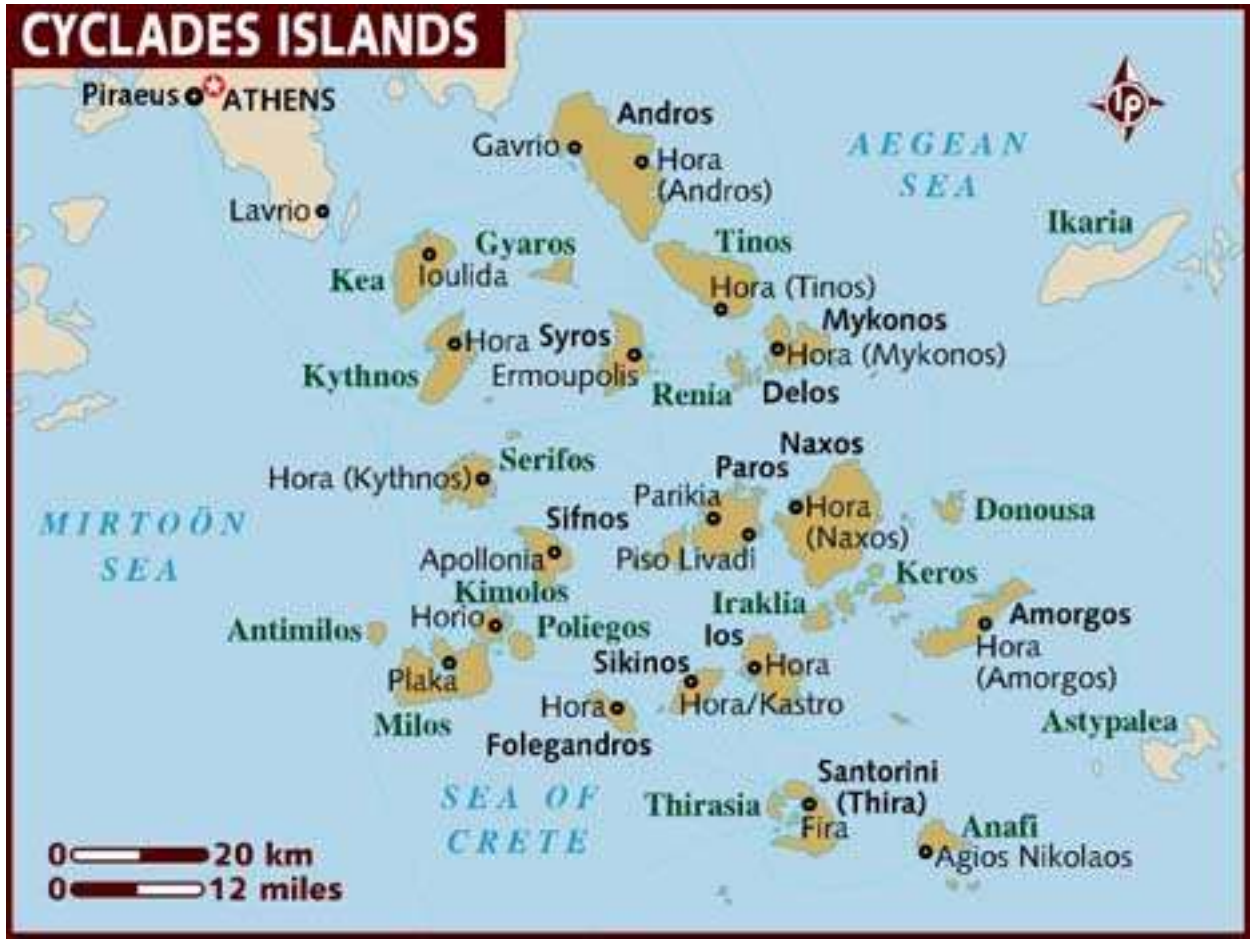
What’s Old is New Again

Cycladic Art and Modernism

Cyclades


CYCLADES ISLANDS
Piraeus
ATHENS
Andros
Gavrio
Hora (Andros)
AEGEAN SEA
Lavrio
Ikaria
Gyaros
Tinos
Kea
Ioulida
Hora (Tinos)
Mykonos
Hora
Syros
Hora (Mykonos)
Kythnos
Ermoupolis
Renia
Delos
Naxos
Serifos
Paros
Hora (Kythnos)
Parikia
Hora (Naxos)
Donousa
MIRTOÖN SEA
Sifnos
Apollonia
Piso Livadi
Keros
Kimolos
Iraklia
Horio
Amorgos
Antimilos
Poliegos
Ios
Hora (Amorgos)
Sikinos
Hora
Plaka
Hora
Hora/Kastro
Milos
Astypalea
Folegandros
Santorini (Thira)
SEA OF CRETE
Thirasia
Fira
Anafi
Agios Nikolaos
0 20 km
0 12 miles

4722

Cycladic art

- https://cycladic.gr/en/page/kikladiki-techni#
- https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/ecyc/hd_ecyc.htm
- https://www.petersommer.com/blog/archaeology-history/cycladic-figurines

Poetic History of Cycladic Art

- https://www.greece-is.com/video-the-birth-of-cycladic-civilization-in-7-minutes-of-pure-poetry/

Khan Academy—harp player

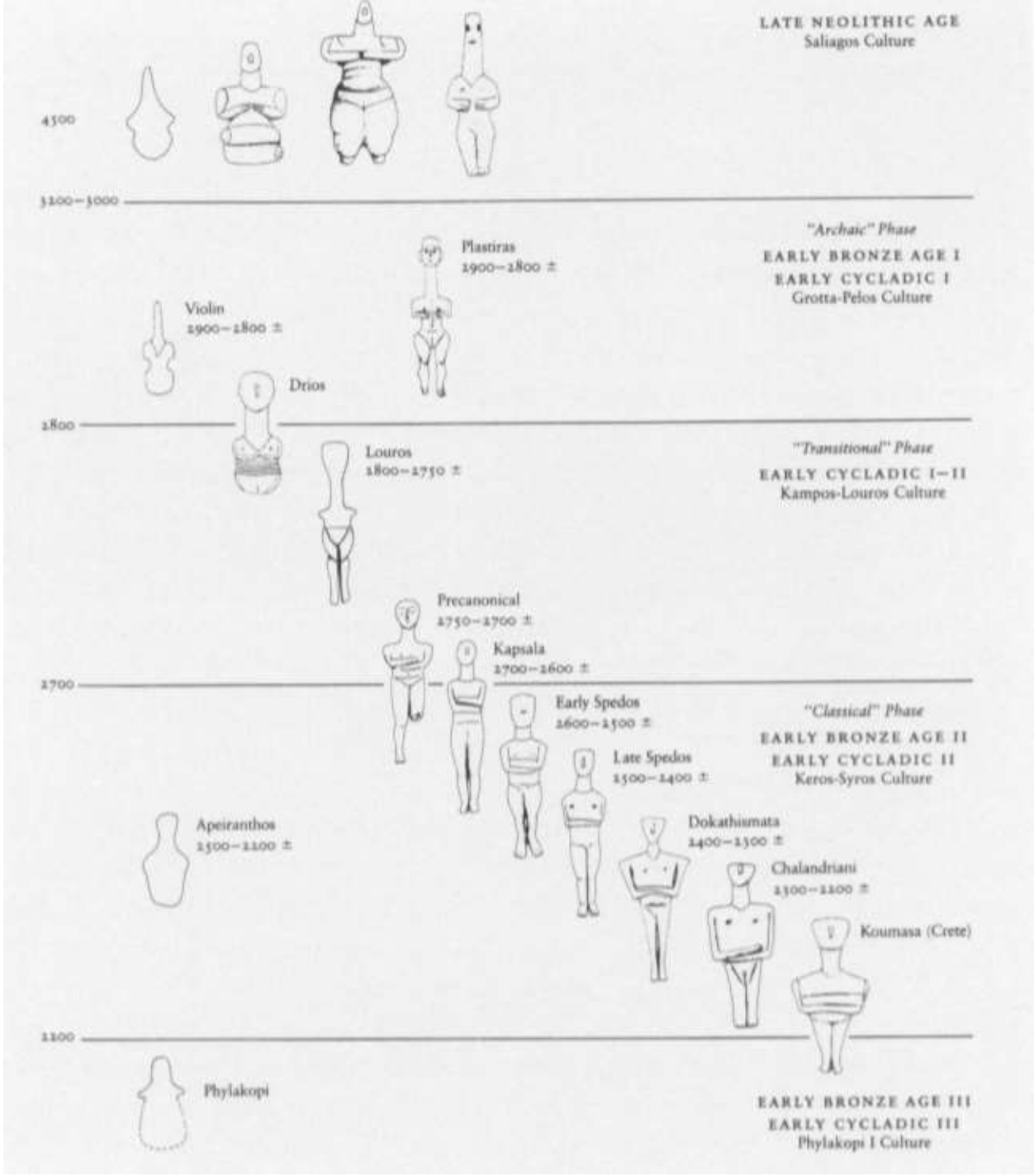
- https://smarthistory.org/male-harp-player-from-keros-early-cycladic-period/

Christie's

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QvauJHJ_iM

6,500-4,000 Years Ago

Broadly speaking, **Cycladic art** consists of small, stylized figures and vessels, either sculpted from marble or molded from clay. The majority of these were produced during the Grotta-Pelos (Early **Cycladic** I) culture (c. 3200?-2700 BC) and the Keros-Syros (Early **Cycladic** II) culture (c. 2700-2400/2300 BC).



Early Cycladic Art (4,500 BCE)

Classical Cycladic Art (c. 2,700 BCE)

Modernists

- Brancusi, Modigliani, Henry Moore
- https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-5-000-year-old-sculptures-shockingly-modern-art
- Brancusi
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZvYcroWl94

Hans Arp

Henry Moore

Alexander Archipenko

Modigliani

Henry Moore

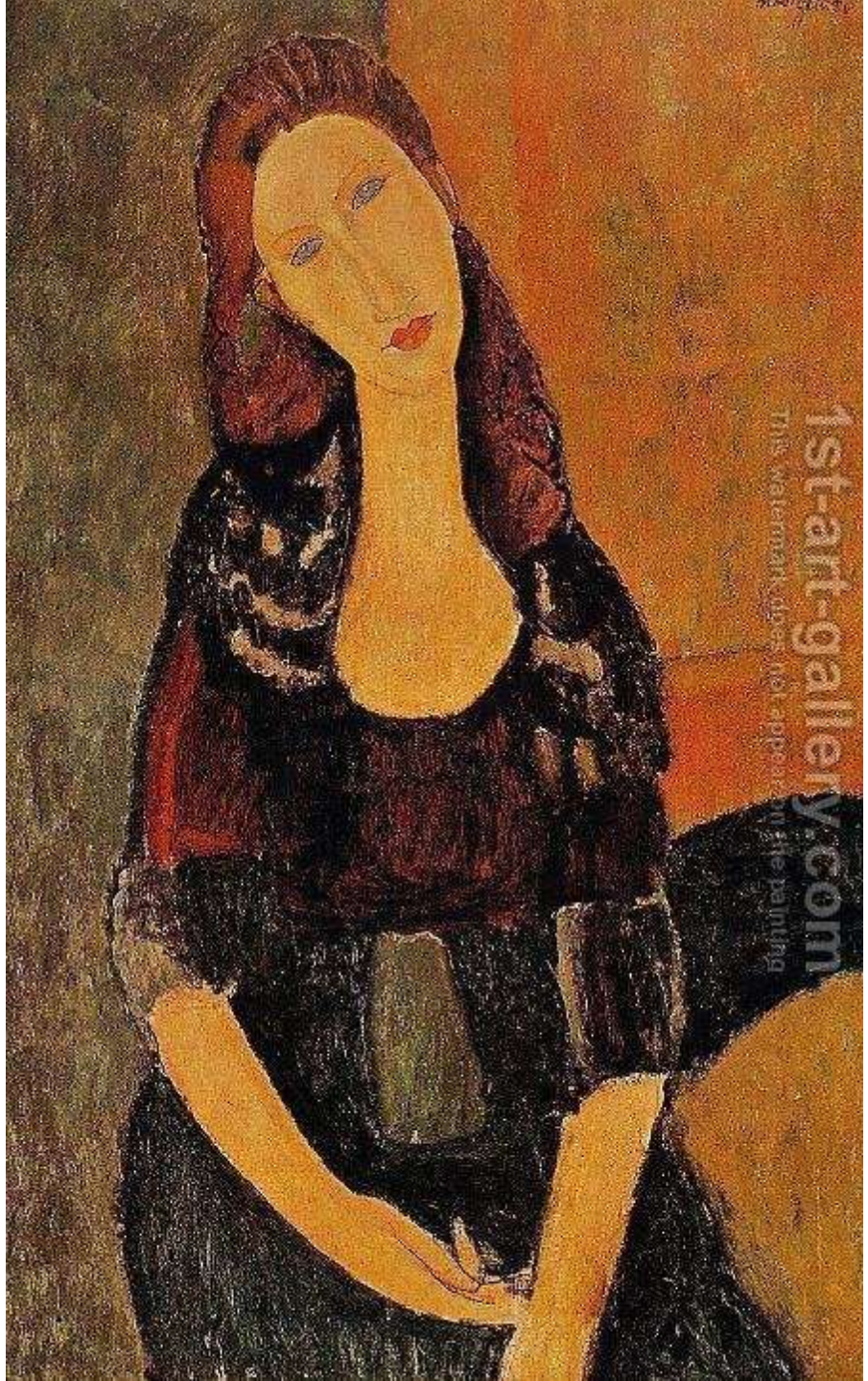
https://museumhack.com/art-influencing-art-moore-cycladic/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-Uy43Wrzgc&list=PLMuiJZurouXYIn6oE7I0zIaZ6cZNxe3Sj&index=20

Modigliani

African influences

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1MoBohEzqE


1st-art-gallery.com

William Turnbull

Constantin Brancusi

Brancusi

https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-1010/cubism-early-abstraction/school-of-paris/v/brancusi-bird-in-space-1928

https://www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/3933

Brancusi
La jeune fille sophistiquée (Portrait de Nancy Cunard)

https://www.christies.com/features/Constantin-Brancusi-La-jeune-fille-sophistiquee-8980-3.aspx

Isamu Naguchi

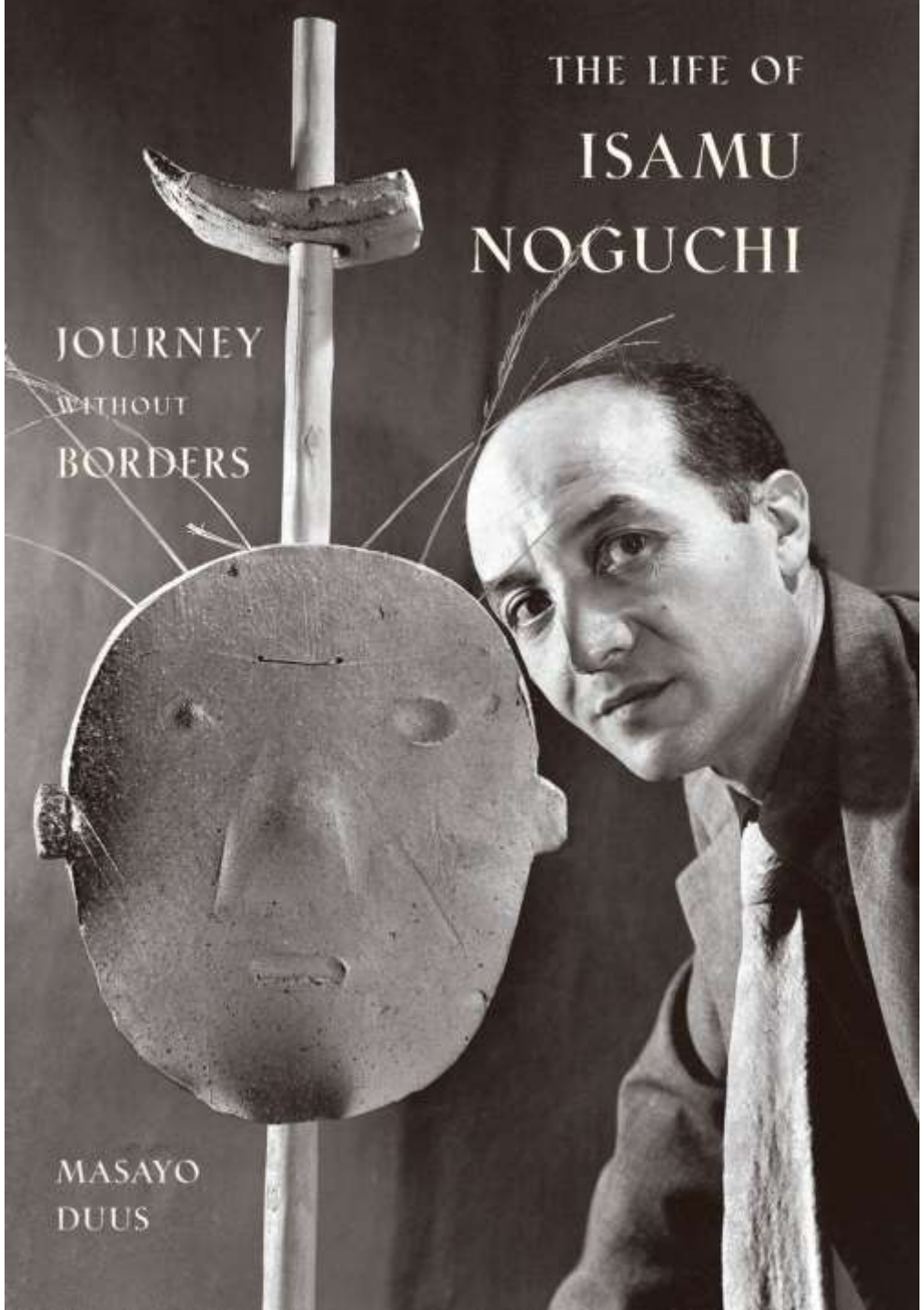
Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988) was one of the twentieth century's most important and critically acclaimed sculptors. Through a lifetime of artistic experimentation, he created sculptures, gardens, furniture and lighting designs, ceramics, architecture, and set designs. His work, at once subtle and bold, traditional and modern, set a new standard for the reintegration of the arts.

Born in Los Angeles, California, to an American mother and a Japanese father, Noguchi lived in Japan until the age of thirteen, when he moved to Indiana. In 1926, Noguchi saw an exhibition in New York of the work of Constantin Brancusi that profoundly changed his artistic direction.

https://www.noguchi.org/isamu-noguchi/biography/biography/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Y05dzPTnq8

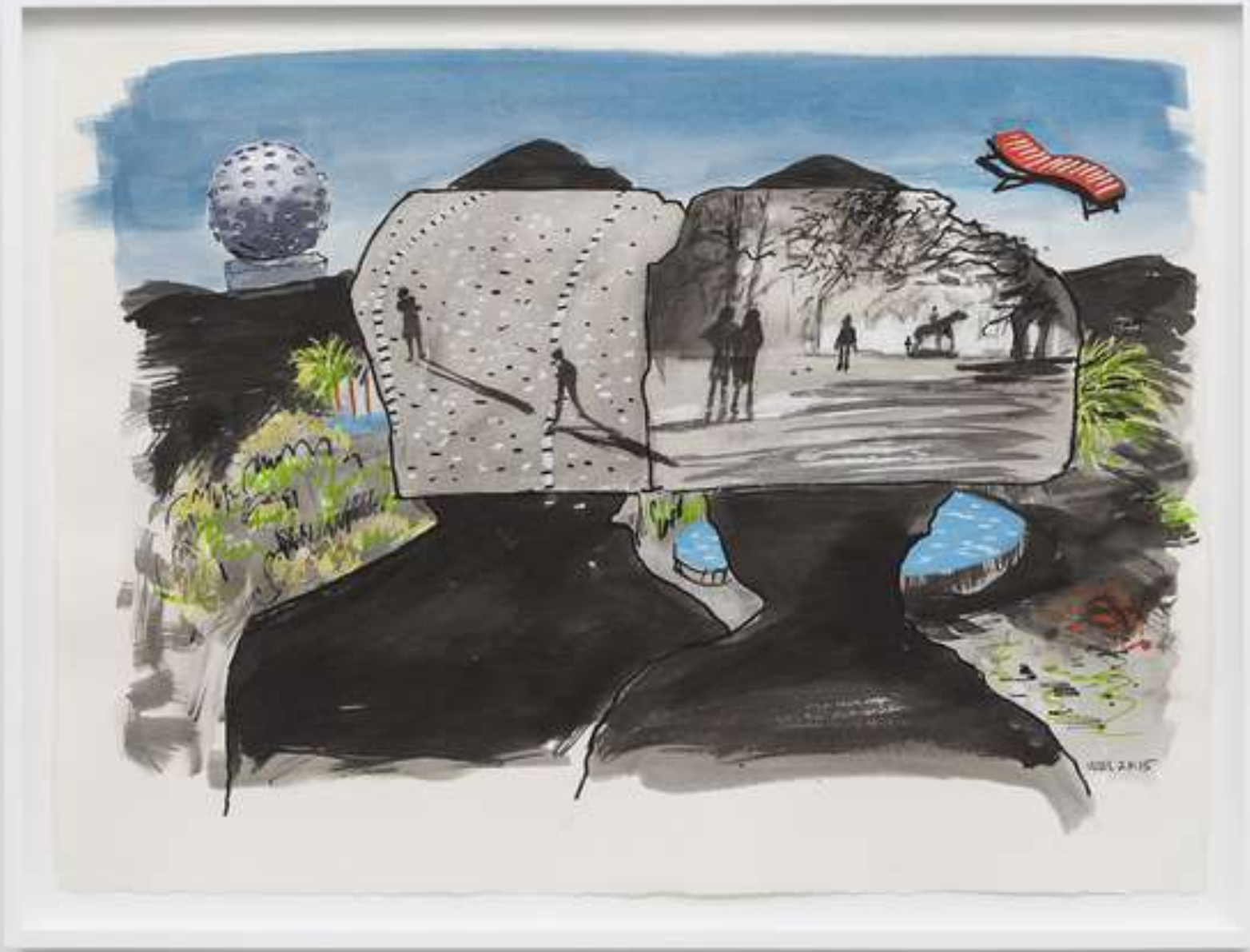
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGX7isfu8t0


THE LIFE OF
ISAMU
NOGUCHI
JOURNEY
WITHOUT
BORDERS
MASAYO
DUUS

William Levitt (1941-

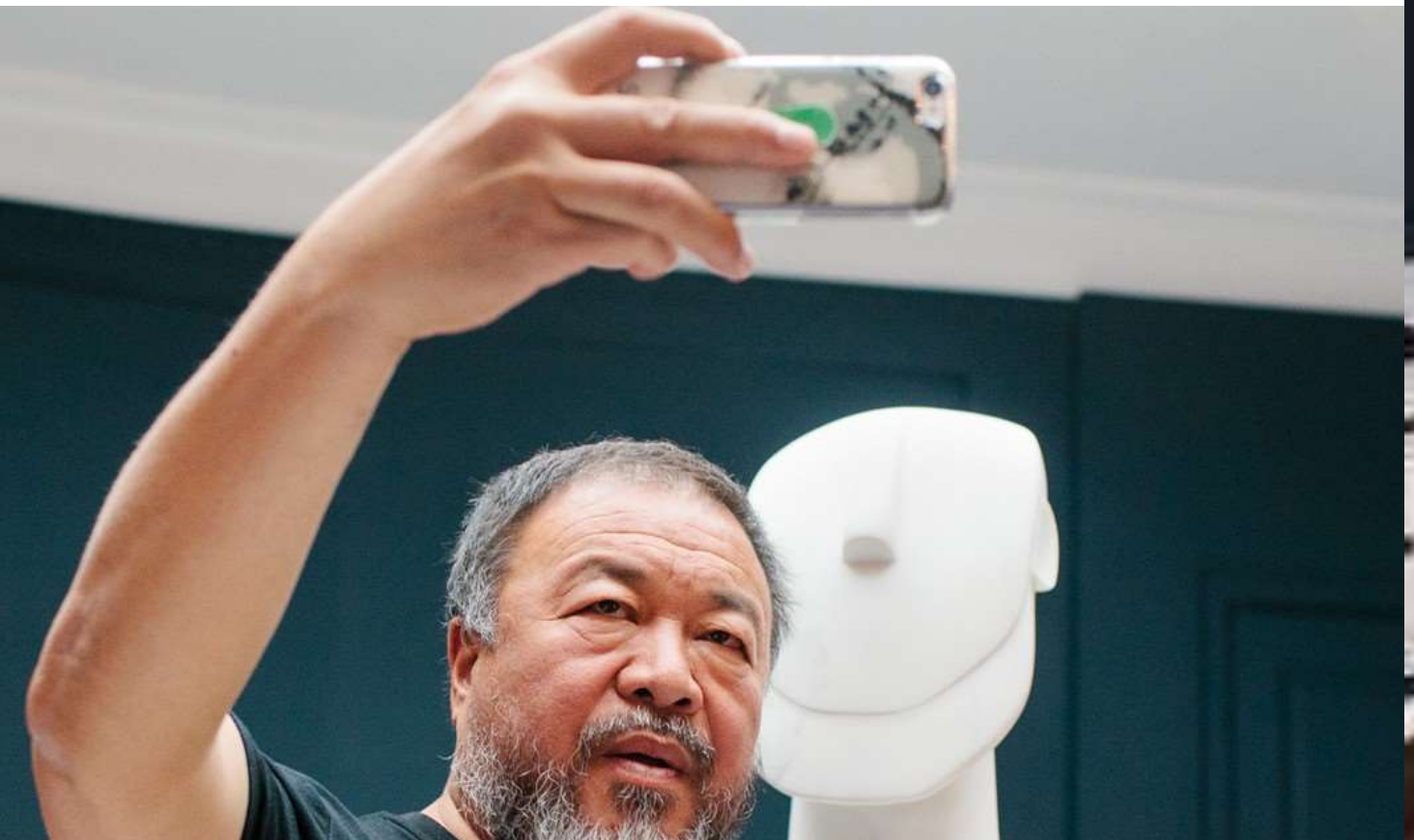
https://www.artsy.net/show/honor-fraser-william-leavitt-cycladic-figures

Leavitt explores these ideas of multiplicity in his paintings and works on paper. In his Head Space series, the faces of two figures appear in silhouette. The figures—along with the title of the exhibition—refer to sculptures produced in the Cyclades islands off the coast of Greece nearly five thousand years ago. The backgrounds comprise faraway landscapes, urban settings, and grassy fields. Rather than creating a traditional portrait, Leavitt offers the faces as picture planes unto themselves, the silhouettes filled with images of ancient architectural remains or an array of objects floating in space. As in Leavitt's sculptural installations, his painted scenes are composed of layers that beckon us to engage our imaginations with the stories they offer.



Ai Wei Wei

- Ai Wei Wei



George Condo at Cycladic Museum

https://youtu.be/RfPD3imZN4o

5000 Paintings
One Cycladic Head

https://cycladic.gr/en/page/5000-zografies-ena-kikladiko-kefali

5000
ΖΩΓΡΑΦΙΕΣ
1 ΚΥΚΛΑΔΙΚΟ
ΚΕΦΑΛΙ

Assignment Suggestions

- Create a Cycladic self portrait
- Create an artwork that decontextualizes an object to the point of abstraction (e.g., zoom in or crop an image)
- Use Cycladic outlines as a window onto something else
- Experiment with minimalism
- Take a minimalist form and “graffiti” it. (Project images onto a simple form).