



# The 14 Most Breathtaking Sculptures Around The World

Sculpture has the power to stop viewers in their tracks, both for their beauty and their context. From Renaissance classics that foregrounded ideal beauty, to modern day works that push the boundaries of material and media, sculpture continues to capture the public's attention, whether it is in New York, London or Rome. Here is a list of the top 14 most breathtaking sculptures from all corners of the globe.



David | © Accademia.org

## Florence | David

One of the most iconic sculptures in history, *David* was created by Michelangelo Buonarroti between 1501 and 1504. Standing at 14 feet tall, the sculpture depicts the Biblical hero David before his battle with Goliath. It was commissioned for the Florence Cathedral, and was to be placed in one of its niches. The block of marble used by Michelangelo had been discarded by previous sculptors for being imperfect. Michelangelo, who was only 26 at the time, transformed the block into the admired statue it is today.

## New York | Expansion

Created from bronze and electricity, *Expansion* was produced by Paige Bradley in 2004. The piece was conceived when Paige first moved to Manhattan. She found it difficult to bring her figures into galleries, and so she revised her practice and created this sculpture. Using a refined wax sculpture of a woman meditating, Paige shattered it and transformed it into the much loved sculpture it is today. The sculpture appears to be bursting apart, with its inner light shining through the cracks.



### Related Articles



The Top 12 Artists You Need To Follow On Instagram



5 Female African Artists in The Diaspora You Need to Know



Africa's Top 10 Exhibitions to Get Excited About in 2015



Africa's 10 Best Exhibitions You Should See This Summer

Submit an article

Wa  
A  
ULI  
Am  
Em  
For



*Metamorphosis in Charlotte, NC | © Angl English/Flickr*

### Charlotte | Metamorphosis

Created by the internationally renowned sculptor from the [Czech Republic, David Cerny](#), *Metamorphosis* is a unique work that explores the limits of media. Already known for his monumental sculptures, Cerny has created a fete of engineering. Using nearly 40 pieces of steel which are grouped into 7 segments, the piece rotates, spewing water, until the segments align to form a giant head. The piece is in constant flux, and it memorises visitors to [Charlotte](#) every year.



*The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa | © Sailko/WikiCommons*

### Rome | The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa

Designed by the famous [Gian Lorenzo Bernini](#), *The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa* can be argued as one of his best and most impressive sculptures. Located in the Cornaro Chapel, [Santa Maria della Vittoria](#) in Rome, this sculpture depicts the [Saint Teresa of Ávila](#) at the moment where she feels she is pierced through the heart by an arrow. Bernini converts his white marble into an almost lifelike statue of the saint, which radiates and moves anyone that sees it.

### Rio de Janeiro | Christ the Redeemer

Immediately recognisable, *Christ the Redeemer* overlooks the city and people of Rio de Janeiro. The sculpture is located on top of Corcovado, which is 700 metres above the city. In 2007, it was voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Created in the Art Deco style, the sculpture is the largest of its kind on the world, standing at 39 metres tall, and with an arm span of 30 metres across. The statue was unveiled in 1931 and was created from reinforced concrete and sandstone.

### Wroclaw | The Monument of an Anonymous Passer-by

Budapest  
Cas

budapest  
City T  
Histor  
And F  
Budapest

High  
Clear  
2015

War  
Publ  
Book

Blick  
and  
Wire

Arrest  
2 Se

records  
Enter I  
State,  
Full B  
Check

Drive  
Philly

SUB  
Subli

Patri  
Ame

Unveiled in December 2005, the *Monument of an Anonymous Passer-by* is situated at a busy crossroads in the centre of Wrocław. It symbolises the enslavement of people by communism. It was produced by [Jerzy Kalina](#) for the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of martial law in Poland, and remembers how underground organisations such as [Fighting Solidarity](#) and [Orange Alternative](#) who protested against the law and communism. Featuring 14 people rising out from the ground, this work strikes all who observe it.



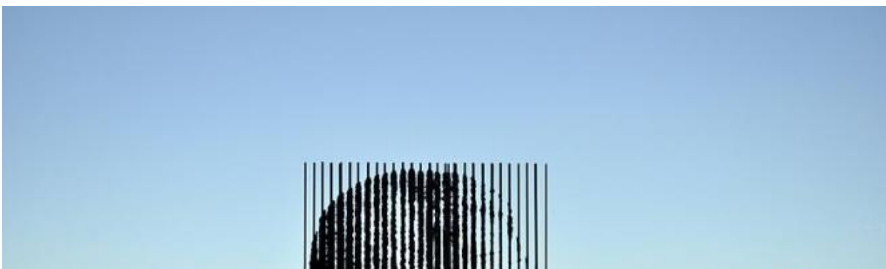
Maai | © Ian Sewell/WikiCommons

### Easter Island | Moai

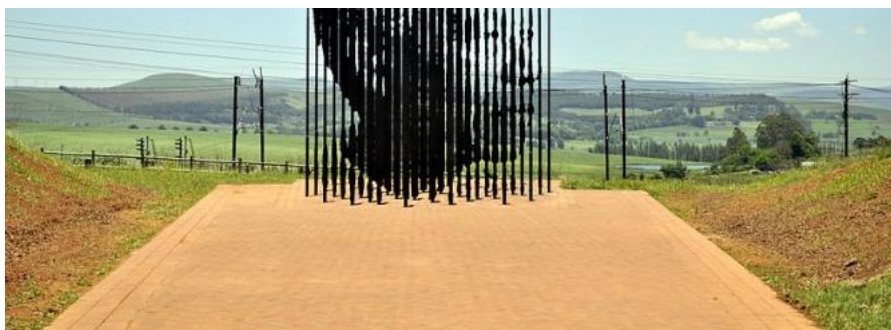
Perhaps some of the oldest sculptures in the world, the [Moai](#) statues on [Easter Island](#) are massive megaliths that attract hordes of visitors to the island every year. Created between 1400 and 1650 A.D. by island natives, there are around 1000 statues on the island, and they are mainly carved by hand from the volcano [Rano Raraku](#). They were made to honour chieftains and other important people. Nearly half of these statues are found at Rano Raraku, the main quarry. The rest are to be founded dotted around the island's perimeter.

### London | Maman

For Louise Bourgeois, [Maman](#) is what made the artist a household name. One of the largest sculptures in the world, [Maman](#) depicts a 30 foot spider made from bronze, stainless steel, and marble. The sculpture's title is the French word for "mother" and reflects maternal themes. It is dedicated to Bourgeois' mother. The sculpture was made in 1999 for the Unilever Series in the [Turbine Hall](#) in the [Tate Modern](#). It was the inaugural commission for this space.







KZN, South Africa | © Darren Glanville/WikiCommons

### Howick | Nelson Mandela

This impressive [Nelson Mandela sculpture](#) was produced by artist [Marco Cianfanelli](#) in collaboration with [Jeremy Rose](#). Depicting the freedom-fighter [Nelson Mandela](#), the sculpture was unveiled in 2012, and consists of 50 steel poles of varying heights. When observed from the correct position, they form the face of Mandela. The sculpture is placed on Mandela's 'Long Walk to Freedom', where he was captured in 1962 by armed apartheid police outside [Howick](#). A historical and life-changing event is remembered by this monument.

World > Africa

Search...

### Budapest | The Shoes on the Danube Bank

[The Shoes on the Danube Bank](#) is a memorial monument located in Budapest. It was created by sculptor [Gyula Pauer](#) and film director [Can Togay](#). It honours the Jews who were killed by fascist [Arrow Cross](#) militiamen in Budapest during World War II. These people were asked to take off their shoes before they were shot and thrown into the river. The shoes represent the people who were lost in the tragic incident. The sculpture is situated on Pest side of the Danube Promenade.

Share

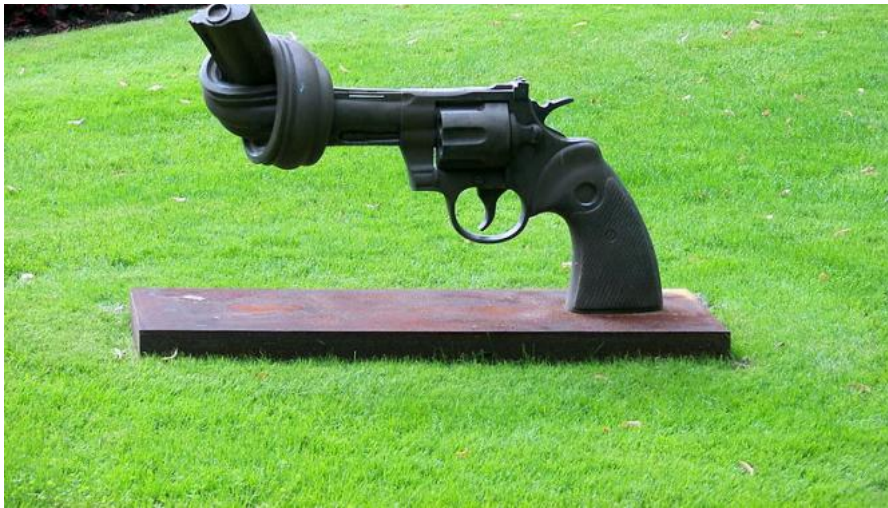


Freedom © Zenos Frudakis/The Artist

### Philadelphia | Freedom

Depicting the themes of struggle and freedom, the sculpture [Freedom](#) was made by [Zenos Frudakis](#). Stretching 20 feet in length, the sculpture comprises of four figures that each represent one figure finding creative release. The sculpture is to be read left to right, and is to be observed from a specially created space. Incorporated into the sculpture are various elements that reflect the sculpture's making, such as its original maquette, as well as other personal elements, such as coins, and an original bronze by [Duane Hanson](#).





*Non Violence | © Francois Polito/WikiCommons*

### Malmö | Non Violence

Created in 1980 by Swedish sculptor [Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd](#), *Non Violence* is a bronze sculpture of a large Colt Python 0.357 Magnum revolver. It was made following the murder of John Lennon. There are 17 copies of the sculpture in the world, and 10 of them are located in Sweden. It has become a symbol of [The Non-Violence Project](#) which promotes social change. It was gifted to by the Government of Luxembourg to the [United Nations](#) in 1988. It is also known as The Knotted Gun.

### London | Aeolus

Named after the Greek ruler of the four winds, *Aeolus* was made by Luke Jerram and is a giant musical instrument which creates music out of the wind passing through it. The sculpture can be viewed as a giant Aeolian harp, whose strings vibrate when moved by the wind, and their sound resonates through metal tubes. Viewers stand beneath the sculptural arch to hear the wind sound through 310 internally polished stainless steel tubes. Architecture, light, sound and art all merge in this intriguing and engaging sculpture.



*The Mustangs of Las Colinas | © Wesley Fryer/WikiCommons*

### Irving | The Mustangs of Las Colinas

Galloping across a stream of granite on the plaza in [Las Colinas Urban Center](#) are nine breath-taking sculptures of wild mustangs. Known as *The Mustangs of Las Colinas*, these sculptures form an impressive centrepiece and attract visitors worldwide. There is a museum located next to the sculpture which recalls how African wildlife artist [Robert Glen](#) created the sculpture. Other works of art by the artist are included in the exhibition. Their size and detail create an almost lifelike scene.

*By Julie Daunt*

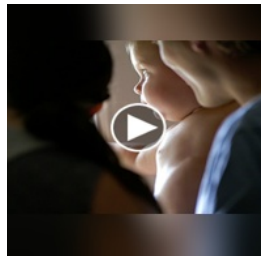
*Julie Daunt is a 24-year-old Art Historian and writer from Cork in Ireland. She has a Masters in Modern and Contemporary Art History, and is currently a Tour Guide in the National Gallery of Ireland. When she is not dying her hair blue or pink, Julie loves experiencing new cities, soaking up their art, food and culture. Follow her on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).*

OPPORTUNITYLIVES.COM · SPONSORED

### Do Republicans really care about families?

VIDEO: A family isn't a political pawn. It's the place where opportunity begins and the promise of individual achievement takes root.

[Learn More](#)



0 Comments

The Culture Trip

1 Login ▾

♥ Recommend

🔗 Share

Sort by Best ▾



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

About Us  
Advertise  
Competitions

Contributors  
Copyright and Use  
Get in Touch

Newsletter  
Partnerships  
Press

Write Articles  
Your Picks

Follow on

Follow on

Follow on

Follow on

Book your Flight + Hotel today and save.

[BOOK NOW >](#)



live  
lastminute.com

The Culture Trip Ltd © 2015 Website Design by Naked Creativity Branding by Mark Making