



For teachers and students in
primary and secondary schools

The Wrestlers

MI Museum of
Contemporary Art

The Wrestlers

A Virtual Sculpture by Ditte Ejlerskov

What is *The Wrestlers*?

The Wrestlers (2021) is a sculpture, but a rather unusual one. In fact, this sculpture is just a digital file that is free for anyone to use however they please. *The Wrestlers* would like your help to come to life. It needs to be clicked on or 3D printed. Normally, artists make artworks you can see in a museum, a city square or other places. To get up and close with *The Wrestlers*, to touch, print, mould, modify or otherwise add to it, you need a computer or smartphone. There are several ways to locate the sculpture:

Watch short films with the artist and read more at virtuelleskulpturer.samtidskunst.dk.
Download all files here – and print the sculpture, if you can.
View *The Wrestlers* on your smartphone by aiming the camera at the QR code.
See what sculptures pop up on Instagram at #thewrestlers

The Museum of Contemporary Art has acquired the artwork, and we want to share it with everyone! *The Wrestlers* is a virtual sculpture because it first has to be viewed on a screen. But anyone can print, copy and modify it. That is usually strictly off limits when it comes to works of art. A virtual sculpture provides other opportunities and interactions than a traditional one. It combines the purely digital with something tangible.

What is the sculpture about?

The two wrestling women have a special meaning to artist Ditte Ejlerskov. They represent two hormones vying for control. One is adrenaline, the stress and fight-or-flight hormone. The other is oxytocin. Oxytocin, which is released by things like hugging and touching, is known as the love hormone. It's essential in childbirth, which is the background for this artwork. Ejlerskov's first birth was a frightening experience, controlled by adrenaline. Before giving birth to her second child, she practised letting oxytocin take over. For the artist, the sculpture is about that struggle. For others, it might be an image of fighting with yourself or disagreeing with others about something.

If the figures look familiar, there is a good reason. The digital sculpture is an updated version of a famous sculpture from antiquity. The original *Wrestlers*, which is carved from marble and housed in a museum in Florence, shows two muscular and – according to the standards of the time – beautiful men fighting. In Ejlerskov's interpretation, it is two women, partly due to her personal history but also to show two powerful, active women vying for control. Ejlerskov calls the figures avatars – for visual reasons and because they represent something rather than portraying specific individuals.



Have a go!

SUGGESTIONS

Get to know the sculpture on a screen

Explore the scene and situation of the sculpture

Add one or more colours to the artwork

Tableau vivant

Make a physical model of *The Wrestlers*

Name the figures and give them backstories

EXERCISES & QUESTIONS

Scan the QR code. Take three different screenshots on a smartphone or tablet that lets you change the sculpture's size, orientation and figures. *How is this different from viewing a marble sculpture in a museum? On a screen, we are used to "looking with our fingers". Our eyes and fingers work together. Do you look at other art this way?*

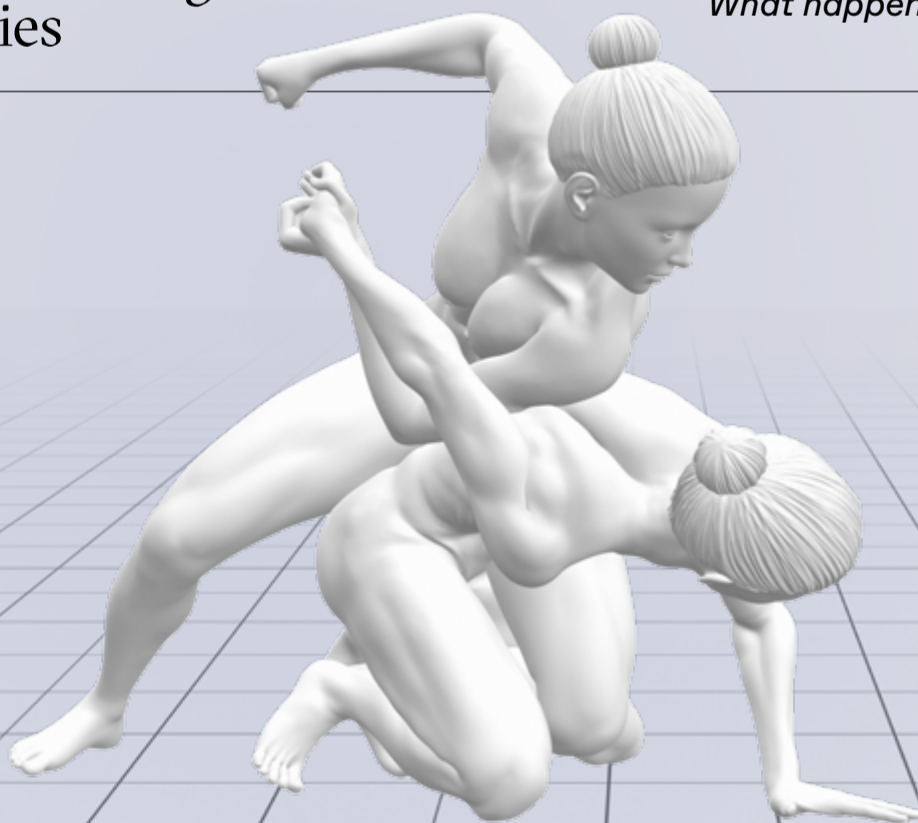
Watch the film *The Walk* on our website. Explore the files *The Wrestlers* and *The Scene* in the download folders. *Where on earth could such a scene take place? Who is watching the wrestling match? Why would someone want to watch something like wrestling?*

The sculpture actually has no colour or physical material. But it will, if you 3D print it. *Try using a 3D viewer in Windows, Blender or another app to add one or more colours to the sculpture. How do the colours change the meaning of the artwork?*

Get in groups of three or more. Two group members will imitate the wrestlers, the others will take pictures and direct. *Try mixing genders and making up your own poses. How does it feel to be in a wrestling match? What could the two figures be saying to each other?*

It's fun to use a 3D printer, moulder or other device. If none is available, try making a model in clay, or drawing and painting the artwork. *How does size affect the meaning of the sculpture? What happens when the medium changes?*

Ejlerskov thinks of them as avatars. *What happens when they become people?*



The Wrestlers by Ditte Ejlerskov is the first work in the *Virtual Sculptures* series. For each exhibition, the Museum of Contemporary Art will acquire a new digital artwork and make it available for free download.

The Wrestlers has been acquired as an NFT on the Flow blockchain. It comes with a Creative Commons licence. In brief, this means that anyone is free to download, share and modify the work. Please credit the artist and the museum – we appreciate it!

We would love to visit and teach a class or course!
Booking info and more at info@samtidskunst.dk or 4631 6570.

Share your images and other material. We will post them on our website and Instagram. Send to info@samtidskunst.dk or find the Museum of Contemporary on the relevant platforms.

Visual identity by Leon Klassen. Graphic design by Marie Heissel.