



**Artist Name: Leroy Setziol**



**Biography:**

Recognized as the “most accomplished and respected wood sculptor in the Northwest,” Roy Setziol was born in Philadelphia and grew up in cosmopolitan Buffalo. After graduating with a degree in art from Elmhurst College he married Ruth Davis in 1940. In 1941 he completed a theological degree and then worked as a minister in Bennington, New York. During WWII he served as a chaplain with the U.S. Army 43rd Infantry in the South Pacific. Soon after the war he joined his family in Portland, Oregon.

With Ruth supporting the family Roy began his career as an artist. Setziol’s art has been influenced by his experience interacting with the immigrant communities in Buffalo, the art he observed in the South Pacific, his personal interest in European art and his experience living in the Northwest. He is a “sculptor who happens to work with wood,” in part because of the ready availability of the material in Oregon. Long admired by the architectural community, his work has been described as monumental, intimate, symbolic, abstract, geometric and organic. It is rich in color and texture with many of his pieces employing a grid system he discovered nearly forty years ago carving a piece for the Menucha Conference Center in the Columbia Gorge. Roy has been commissioned for an extraordinary number of public pieces including those that can be seen at the Salishan Lodge, the Salem Public Library, the Child Development Center in Portland, the Chevron Building in Lagos, Nigeria, and most recently at Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. His sculptures are also in the collections of the Salem Art Association, the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, and the Contemporary Crafts Museum and Gallery.

## Online Curriculum:

### [Shapes Within the Grid](#) (pdf download)—Level: Grades 4-6

“ If you want to establish a point you have to have repetition.” – Leroy Setziol

After analyzing Setziol’s grid style, students will have a chance to try it out on their own by creating a soap sculpture. They will consider both organic and geometric shapes and how to unify a design with some repetition and the grid for the overall structure.

Oregon Standards Connection: Art (Aesthetics & Art Criticism, Historical & Cultural Perspectives, Create, Present, Perform), Mathematics (Geometry)

### [Wood as a Material](#) (pdf download)—Level: Grades 4-8

“ The wood is existential. It is the way the tree wanted to grow in that particular environment... It knows how to grow as a tree better than you do.” – Leroy Setziol

For most of his career Setziol has used wood for his sculptures. Students will spend time thinking about wood as a material: How do tree species differ? How do trees grow? What affects the way a tree grows?

Oregon Standards Connection: Life Science (Organisms, Diversity/Independence)

### [Comparing Carvers](#) (pdf download)—Level: Grades 4-6

“ Destiny is the combination of historical circumstances and your own talents, and your ability to pursue your talents.” – Leroy Setziol

After reading a fictional story about an ivory carver, students will make a comparison to Setziol. This will lead to a conversation about natural resources and how good stewardship of those resources may affect choices you make as an artist. Students will also have an opportunity to practice using mistakes or flaws in their creative process.

Oregon Standards Connection: Life Science (Diversity/Independence), Earth & Space Science (The Dynamic Earth), Social Sciences (Geography), English/Language Arts (Reading), Art (Create, Present, Perform)

[Business vs. Relationship](#) (pdf download)—Level: Grades 5-10

“ I don’t think of woodcarving as a business... If someone likes my work then we have a communication”  
—Leroy Setziol

Students will explore what it means to live as an artist by exploring the artist and their lifestyle, the meaning and experience of creating a work of art and the relationship between public art and the surrounding environment. Activities include the use of: technology, journal writing, discussion, drawing, and visiting public works of art.

Oregon Standards Connection: Social Sciences (Economics), English/Language Arts (Writing), Art (Aesthetics & Art Criticism, Historical & Cultural Perspectives, Create, Present, Perform)

[Regionality vs. Universality](#) (pdf download)—Level: Grades 5-10

“ If it’s difficult it’s going to be beautiful, if it’s beautiful it’s going to be difficult”  
“ You don’t arrive at designs by sitting in a corner and waiting for inspiration”  
—Leroy Setziol

How does woodcarving compare in different places and times? Students will look at the development of woodcarving over time to compare it with regional architecture and Oregon’s environmental history. Activities include: discussing/critiquing art, analyzing timelines, and using technology.

Oregon Standards Connection: Social Sciences (Geography, Social Science Analysis), English/Language Arts (Writing), Art (Aesthetics & Art Criticism, Historical & Cultural Perspectives)

[Immigration and Community](#) (pdf download)—Level: Grades 5-10

“ You start with very little, or nothing, and you take it from there. One stroke leads to another.” —Leroy Setziol

Students will investigate immigration history, the Depression, the idea of “starting with little or nothing” and the idea of the “cooperative enterprise” as defined by Setziol. Activities include: using technology, discussion, creating an immigration timeline, family interviews and creating a work of art for the school community.

Oregon Standards Connection: Social Sciences (Geography, Social Science Analysis), English/Language Arts (Writing), Art (Aesthetics & Art Criticism, Historical & Cultural Perspectives, Create, Present, Perform)

**Video Documentaries:**

[Leroy Setziol](#)

**Collections:**

Contemporary Crafts Museum and Gallery  
<http://www.contemporarycrafts.org/index.htm>

Hallie Ford Museum of Art  
[http://www.willamette.edu/museum\\_of\\_art](http://www.willamette.edu/museum_of_art)

Salem Art Association  
<http://www.salemart.org>

Salishan Lodge  
<http://www.salishan.com>

Timberline Lodge  
<http://www.timberlinelodge.com/>

University of Portland Chapel  
<http://www.up.edu>

Salem Public Library  
<http://www.salemlibrary.org>