

4 Seated Figures



4 Seated Figures, 2002

That's a Wrap

Magdalena Abakanowicz (1930–2017) is best known for figures like these. She modeled them using burlap mixed with resin and glue, which she applied to a mold made from an actual human form.

Take a closer look

Though created using the same mold, the figures each have unique qualities. For many viewers, their texture evokes tree bark, mummy wrappings, exposed musculature, or insect exoskeletons.

Something to talk about

The artist deliberately chose to present these figures as headless, armless, and backless. How might we experience the work differently if they were complete?

Who knew?

Born in Poland, Abakanowicz saw firsthand many of the horrors of World War II and its aftermath. Her works speak to her own history and that of her country, but also to our experience as human beings.

Magdalena Abakanowicz, *4 Seated Figures*, 2002; Burlap, resin, and iron rods, 53½ x 24¼ x 99¼ inches (overall); National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the artist

