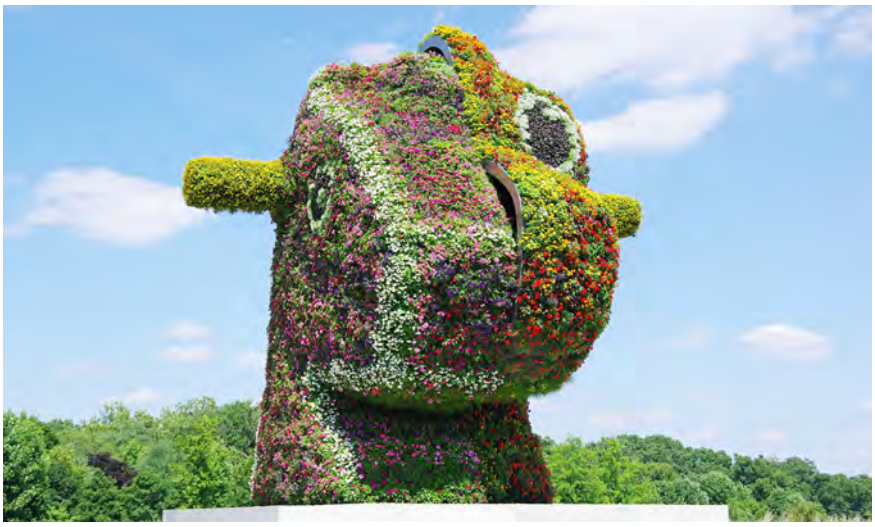
# Jeff Koons, *Split-Rocker*, 2000



Jeff Koons, *Split-Rocker,* 2000, mixed media.

## 1 Close Looking and Principles of Design

- What do you see as you approach and walk around the sculpture?
- What do you think the artist was trying to communicate about movement or space?
- What do you wovnder about the choice of material or the way it's placed in the landscape?

*Consider using terms like **line, form, scale, balance,** and **negative space.***

## 2 Learn More About the Artist:

- Jeff Koons was born in 1955 in York, Pennsylvania. He studied art at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, MD, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Early in his career, Koons worked as a stockbroker, which helped him understand how money, value, and marketing work—ideas that later became important in his art.
- Koons is influenced by **Pop Art**, and by everyday objects and advertisements. His art uses familiar items such as balloons, toys, and household objects, made very large and shiny. Through this style, he explores ideas about **consumer culture, popularity,** and what people consider "good" or "bad" taste.
- Koons became well known in the 1980s for art that challenged traditional ideas about what art should be. Today, Koons is one of the most famous **contemporary** artists, and his work often sparks conversations about art, money, and modern culture.

### About the Artwork:

- *Split-Rocker* is a large sculpture made from **steel, soil, irrigation systems,** and over 24,000 living flowers. The sculpture shows the head of a toy that is split down the middle—one side is a rocking horse, and the other is a dinosaur. The artwork is covered in plants and it changes with the seasons. It requires constant care, blending art with gardening and engineering.
- Jeff Koons uses *Split-Rocker* to explore ideas about childhood, memory, and contrast. The two sides of the sculpture represent different qualities: the rocking horse suggests something gentle and familiar, while the dinosaur feels more wild and powerful. Koons invites viewers to think about how familiar objects can take on new meaning when combined, or seen in a different way.

### Glenstone Connection:

- ***Split-Rocker*** shows how Glenstone works closely collaboration with **living artists** to present artworks as the artist intended. Glenstone collaborated with Jeff Koons and his studio to carefully site the sculpture in the landscape so it could be viewed from multiple angles and distances, creating an intentional relationship to its surroundings.
- Several teams support the artwork. Engineering & Maintenance departments help with the structure and irrigation system, while the Grounds team cares for the plants, changing flowers seasonally.



Jeff Koons



Installation at Glenstone, with flower selection from 2015.



Glenstone technician doing maintenance on the sculpture.

## 3 Reflect

### Worldview and Social Impact

- How do the toys, games, or images you grew up with shape the way you see the world today? What might this artwork suggest about how childhood influences who we become?
- What ideas, memories, or experiences does this sculpture bring to mind?
- What role do you think play, imagination, or nostalgia have in this artwork?

*This invites discussion of empathy, interpretation, and perception.*

### Details and Material

Examine a section of the structure closely.

- What textures, colors, or marks do you notice on the plants or steel?
- How has time or the seasons affected the surface? Can you see signs of growth, fading, or changes on the surface?
- What details do you notice when comparing the two sides of the sculpture?

*Introduce terms like **irrigation system, surface, contrast,** and **seasonal cycle**.*

### Personal Reflection

After moving through the sculpture, reflect:

- I feel... (emotion or reaction)
- I think... (insight or idea sparked)
- I am... (state of being or identity)

*Connect art to personal meaning, mindfulness, and self.*

*Jeff Koons, Split-Rocker, 2000*
*© Jeff Koons*
*Photo: Glenstone Museum*

*Accessibility Note: Narrow, hilly path may be difficult for some wheelchairs.*