



On the inside of this brochure, you will find a poster image of Richard Criddle's studio with many of the pieces being worked on for the Kidspace exhibition. Find these pieces in the gallery and use the questions and close-up images to focus on specific details.

OCTOBER 4, 2007 - FEBRUARY 24, 2008

DRAWING AND SCULPTURE BY RICHARD CRIDDLE

IT'S RUDE TO STARE

KIDSPACE AT MASS MOCA PRESENTS

The collages, drawings, and mixed-media self-portraits in the exhibition reveal the artist's interest in how we experience ourselves in the past, present, and in relationship to others. These drawings, along with Criddle's huge sculptural figures, provoke us to consider: are we looking at them, or are we the object of scrutiny? Is the crowd looking at us?

Criddle's trip down memory lane produces vivid impressions of people from his past. Many of the sculptures were inspired by real people who made a lasting impact on the artist, including his school teachers, a grumpy war veteran, and a disabled child (to whom his mother told him "it was rude to stare"). Criddle merges these true stories of actual people with those found in folklore to create hybrid figures—half real, half mythological. Their sculptural presence in the gallery resonates with our collective and personal memories, as well as the artist's own.

It's Rude to Stare features the sculpture and drawings of English-born, Vermont-based artist Richard Criddle. In a personal 'archaeological dig' into his childhood fears and stories, Criddle, as many of us do, interprets these memories as larger than life. He presents his figures made from wood, bronze, fabricated steel and found objects such as wooden blinds, furniture components, a furnace shovel and heavy industrial hardware.

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Mr. Goodbody [detail], 2005
Collection of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Photo: Kevin Kennefick



About the artist

Richard Criddle is a British sculptor who moved to New England in 1996. He now lives in southern Vermont and works in North Adams, Massachusetts.

He studied fine art sculpture at the Central School of Art & Design in London where he received a BA (honours) degree, graduating on to the Royal College of Art to study bronze casting under Sri Lankan master founder Tissa Ranasinghe.

After teaching for several years in South Wales, Criddle returned to London to complete a three-year postgraduate diploma at the Royal Academy Schools, funded by a scholarship from the Henry Moore Foundation.

During an immensely diverse career in sculpture, Criddle has worked as a college lecturer, an art fabricator, a foundry and studio consultant, a model-maker, an artisan, and a foundry worker in the United States and the United Kingdom. He established bronze foundries for both academic institutions and commercial enterprises. Between 1988 and 1994 his successful company Mentmore Sculpture Services Ltd. executed a wide range of commissions for clients such as English National Opera, the Archbishop of Cyprus and Pinewood Film Studios.

Criddle has completed several major public art commissions, most notably his series of seven fabricated steel sculptures *Industrial Shrines* for the Black Country Route, a major highway in England's West Midlands. In the U.S., Criddle designed *Turning True New-Arc*, a public sculpture for New Jersey Transit, on permanent display outside Penn Station, Newark, New Jersey.

Criddle has exhibited his sculpture throughout the U.K., including twice at the Royal Academy of Arts in London and, in the U.S., most recently at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts' Gallery 51.

Richard Criddle has been the Director of Fabrication & Art Installation since 1998 at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, and has been involved in the installation of all Kidspace exhibitions.



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North Adams, MA 01247
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www.massmoca.org/kidspace

It's Rude to Stare was organized by Laura Thompson, Kidspace Director of Exhibitions and Education, with artist Richard Criddle. Eternal gratitude to the staff of the three museums for their consistent support of Kidspace, and especially to the staff of MASS MoCA for promoting, designing, and installing the exhibition.

Kidspace is a collaborative project of the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, Williams College Museum of Art, and MASS MoCA. Major support for Kidspace is provided by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Nimoy Foundation, the Browning Charitable Trust and Alice Shaver Foundation in memory of Lynn Latman; the Artists' Resource Trust, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation; and the James and Robert Hardman Fund for North Adams, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.



The public is welcome at Kidspace to view exhibitions and to create their own art. During the school year, public hours are Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4:00 p.m. plus holiday hours. Summer hours are every day from noon to 4:00 p.m. beginning June 28. The rest of the week is reserved for school groups. Admission to Kidspace is free. Public art arrangements can be made to hold birthday parties in Kidspace. Please call Kidspace at 413.664.4481 x8131 for more details on hours, programs and program fees, and exhibitions. And check out the Kidspace web site at www.massmoca.org/kidspace.

About Kidspace at MASS MOCA

Kidspace opened in January 2000 as a collaborative project of the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, Williams College Museum of Art, and MASS MoCA. A contemporary art gallery/studio and educational program, Kidspace promotes the understanding and teaching of art through experiential learning opportunities. School programs and educational materials are designed for elementary schools in North Adams, Florida, Clarksburg, and Savoy, Massachusetts, as well as Stamford, Vermont. Kidspace organizes after-school artist mentor programs for local students in grades 4-10. Working with Kidspace staff and artists, students and teachers learn new ways to connect contemporary art to their classroom activities and to their everyday lives.



Materials from the artist's studio
Photo: Kevin Kennefick





1 ↘
How many different views of the artist in "self portraits" can you find in the gallery?



2 ↘
What materials does the artist use to make this sculpture's face?



3 ↘
These are war propaganda posters from England, meaning they are in support of the war (World War II). Why are they used for the base of this sculpture?



4 ↘
What is this object, and why is it on the helmet of the veteran?



5 ↘
What kind of animal has a nose like this?



6 ↘
How does this piece look different now that it is in the gallery?

The Artist's Studio
August 30, 2007
All photographs by Kevin Kennefick



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DRAWING AND SCULPTURE

BY RICHARD CRIDDLE

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 **Kidspace**
at MASS MoCA