8: Auguste Rodin
Known for his monumental bronze and marble figures, Auguste Rodin was a French sculptor who carved *The Thinker* and *The Kiss*. After failing to get into the prestigious art school in France known as the École des Beaux-Arts, Rodin set out to complete an occupation in decorative stonework. After a few years he was able to work with sculptor ALbert Carrier-Belleuse while he then travelled to Brussels with to further explore the intricate and magnificent world of sculpture. Taking time to develop a personally distinctive and expressive style, Rodin visited Italy and observed the works of Michelangelo and Donatello. With these experiences in mind and after spending time around great artistic influences, Rodin returned to Paris where he started sculpting commissioned works using bronze and marble.

**Examine It:**
*The Thinker* (1880-1901), bronze statue, located at the Musée Rodin (Paris)

**Re-create It:**
**Materials**
- clay (see an easy recipe below, or use a brand such as Crayola Air-Dry Clay) or use aluminum foil

**Procedure**
1. Decide what material you want to sculpt with: clay or aluminum foil
2. Whichever material you choose to use, think of something to sculpt
3. Pull up an image online for reference, pick an object to replicate that is already in your house, or try to recreate one of Rodin’s famous statues!
Easy Homemade Clay
- 1 cup baking soda
- 1/2 cup corn starch
- 3/4 cup water
- Cooking pot
- Spatula
- Stove

1. Measure the baking soda, corn starch and water, and pour them together in a cooking pot or sauce pan. Place the pot or pan on the stove over medium heat.

2. Stir the mixture to combine all of the ingredients and keep stirring regularly as the mixture heats up. The consistency will start to thicken as you stir.

3. At this point the mixture will start to clump together. Keep stirring to smooth it out and make sure no lumps are left. After a while (at least 10 minutes) the mixture will start to look like a solid dough, a lot like cookie dough.

4. Next, transfer the clay dough to a bowl. Give the mixture time to cool to room temperature. Once the mixture feels cool to the touch, knead it like you would knead a bread dough until you have a smooth round ball. Keep kneading until the dough no longer sticks to your fingers. If it still feels sticky you can add some corn starch.

5. Roll out the dough with a rolling pin or pinch a piece off and start creating! As soon as you're happy with what you've created, you can set it aside and let it air dry. The clay will have hardened considerably after 2 hours already. And your design will be fully dry in 24 hours.

6. Once dry you can paint the outside with acrylic paint, permanent markers (like Sharpies) or porcelain markers.