



Look at the artworks in the gallery...  
Can you find this shape?

Once you think you have found it, turn over to see if you are right and to learn about the artist

# Ernst Barlach

# THE JOLLY PEG-LEG SCULPTURE



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Ernst Barlach was a German artist born in 1870. He was a sculptor, printmaker and writer.

During his young years he studied at the Royal Art School in Dresden where he developed his sculpting techniques. He became a very successful artist.

In the years before the First World War, Barlach was very patriotic and a great supporter of war. He served in the war from 1915 to 1916 as an infantry soldier. He was discharged with a heart defect.

He returned from the war a pacifist. He had witnessed the true horror of war and saw human suffering and pain. His artwork began to reflect his personal emotions about war and his images became exaggerated, distorted and angry.

In the 1930s Barlach's work was seen to be degenerate by the Nazis due to his anti-war messages and many of his works were confiscated. He was also banned as working as a sculptor.

Barlach's work went from having popularity to being persecuted. This continued until his death in 1938 when he died of heart failure.

Do you think this sculpture tells a story?