

# Really Tall and Really Thin



## VISIT THE BMA

and stand next to *Man Pointing*. Ask someone to take your photograph so you can see how your proportions compare to those of the sculpture.

## *Man Pointing* Alberto Giacometti

*Man Pointing* doesn't look like the person you see when you look in the mirror.

To make this sculpture look more like you, you would have to shorten his legs, broaden his shoulders, and give him plenty of muscles. As it is, he looks extremely stretched out and impossibly thin.

Artists can make their sculptures any size and shape they want. Many artists try to make their figures resemble real people. Others choose to make their figures super perfect, and still others, like Alberto Giacometti, (pronounced Ja-ko-met-ee) purposely distort their figures with body shapes that take us by surprise.

When artists consider **body proportions**, they often use the length of the head as a convenient measure.

- Most people are about 7 heads tall, but 11 of *Man Pointing's* heads could be stacked up to equal the length of his body.
- Most people's shoulders measure about 2 head-lengths across, but *Man Pointing* is only 1 head-length from shoulder to shoulder.
- Most people's legs measure about 4 head-lengths from hip to heel, but *Man Pointing's* legs are 5 1/2 head-lengths long.

### Challenge for Students

- Measure a friend to see how his or her head-body proportions compare to those of *Man Pointing*.
- Make a stretched-out portrait of yourself that shows how your body would look with different proportions.
- List words that describe *Man Pointing* (such as lean, elongated, attenuated, and emaciated) and use them in sentences.
- Write a story about what *Man Pointing* might be pointing to.

Print the image on page 2 for your students.

# THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART



Alberto Giacometti. *Man Pointing*. 1947. Bronze. 70 inches high. The Baltimore Museum of Art: The Saidie A. May Collection, BMA 1951.382 ©Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / ADAGP, Paris