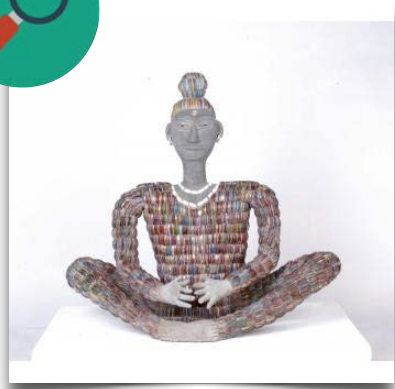


## Text Set to Accompany

# The Secret Kingdom: Nek Chand, a Changing India, and a Hidden World of Art

### Primary Sources & Research Materials

These texts tell readers more about Nek Chand and his hidden art landscape.



[Kohler Foundation: Digital Archive of Nek Chand's Concrete and Fabric Sculptures](#)

This digital archive shares photos of Chand's sculptures and provides information about his work. The accompanying article share's Nek Chand's belief that "everything in nature transforms itself from one form into another -- nature's way of recycling."

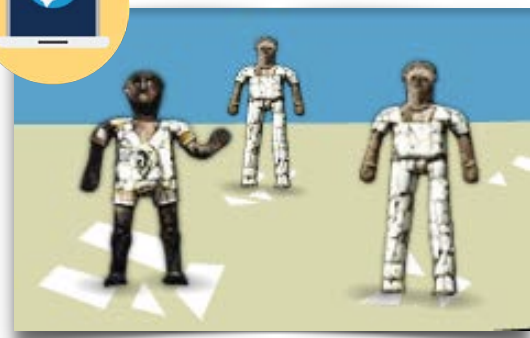
[Panorama Archive: Nek Chand Foundation](#)

Photographer Jean-Noël Montagné captured thirty panoramic images of Nek Chand's rock garden. The images bring the garden to life as they depict Chand's creations both up close and at a distance. Viewers will be fascinated by the detail present in Chand's work, as well as the ways his artwork complements the natural landscape.



### Content Connections

These texts explore topics such as folk art.



[PBS Interactive Tour: The Rock Garden](#)

This interactive tour of the rock garden provides information about Nek Chand and his garden, while also allowing viewers to drag figures to create their own rock garden scenes. Viewers can also click through a slideshow of facts and zoom in on photographs to notice detail in Chand's creations.

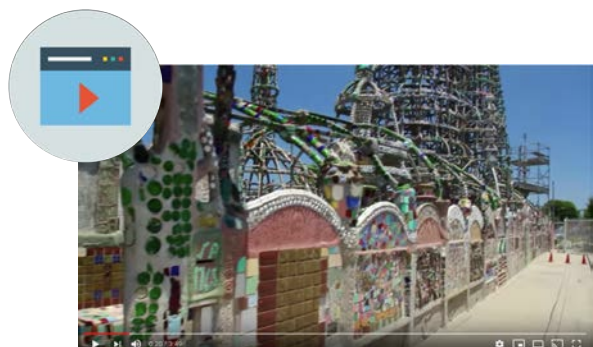
[NPR Radio Clip: Refugee Art Exhibit Goes Beyond The Immigrant Experience](#)

This radio clip interviews refugee artists who depict their immigration experiences in their artwork. Artists share how memories of their homelands can influence their artwork, and how the act of creating art can give immigrants ownership over their new new homes.



[Video Tour: A Walk Around Watts Towers, Los Angeles](#)

Readers interested in outsider art may enjoy this video of the Watts Towers in Los Angeles. The towers were built by an Italian immigrant named Simon Rodia in his spare time over 33 years. Readers can learn more about how the towers were constructed from found objects [in this article](#).



[Newsela Article: Once a neglected house, "Rainbow Embassy" is a sign of rebirth in Arkansas](#)

This article for young readers shares how a street artist from Madrid, Spain named Okuda San Miguel turned a rundown old house into an art piece, using bursts of color to inspire a message of hope and inspiration in a city in Arkansas. San Miguel turns buildings into art pieces.





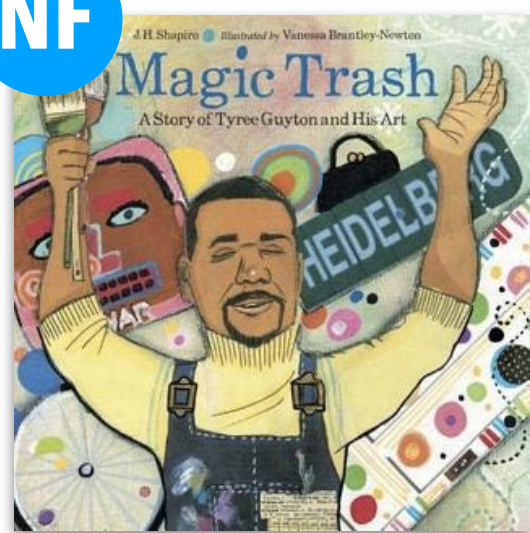
## Text Set to Accompany

# The Secret Kingdom: Nek Chand, a Changing India, and a Hidden World of Art

### Texts to Pair with *The Secret Kingdom*

These fiction and nonfiction texts can be read alongside *The Secret Kingdom* for deeper exploration of folk and community artwork, as well as reusing found materials.

NF



*Magic Trash: A Story of Tyree Guyton and His Art*  
By J.H. Shapiro

This picture book biography celebrates Tyree Guyton, an artist who turned his community into a sculpture park.

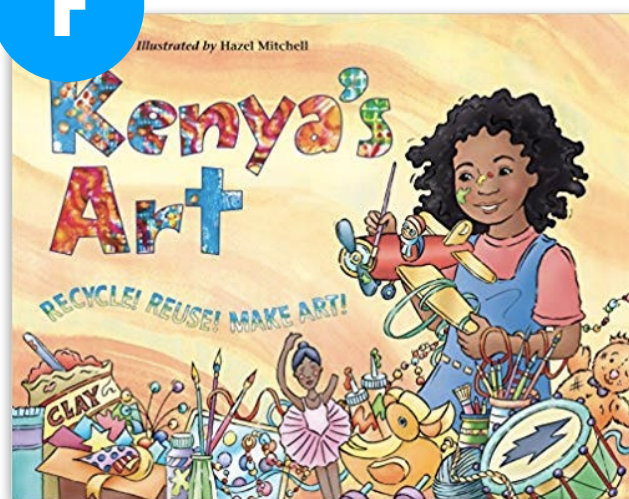
F



*Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood*  
By F. Isabel Campoy & Theresa Howell

A young girl named Mira, a muralist, and an entire community come together to brighten their neighborhood with color and love.

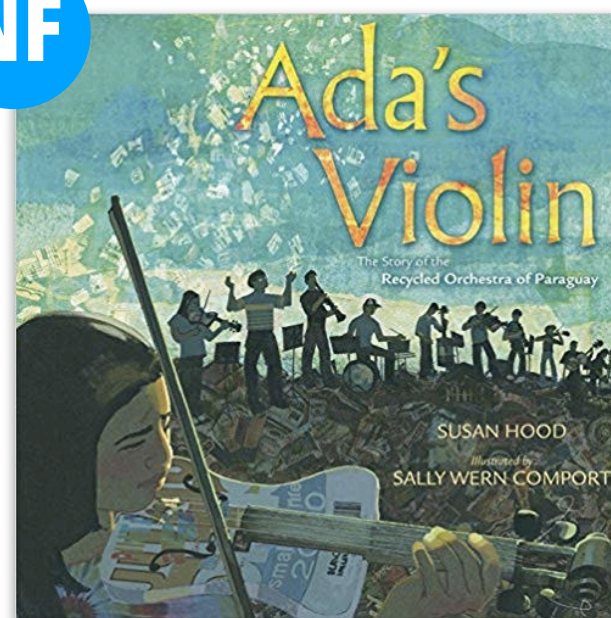
F



*Kenya's Art*  
By Linda Trice

Young Kenya visits a museum's recycling exhibit over spring break, and is inspired to use her old, broken toys and other items to make art with her family.

NF



*Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay*  
By Susan Hood

Ada's community sits atop a landfill. A music teacher finds a way to reuse trash to create instruments - and beautiful music.

NF



*One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia*  
By Miranda Paul

This picture book shares how Isatou Ceesay and other women transformed plastic bags found in their communities into beautiful purses through the art of weaving.

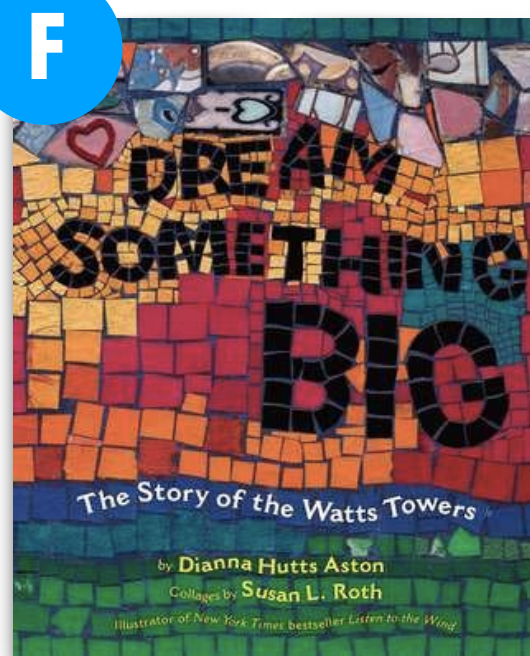
F



*Hey Wall: A Story of Art and Community*  
By Susan Verde

Ángel lives in a neighborhood bustling with music, laughter. He decides to create a piece of community art that reflects the identity of his neighborhood.

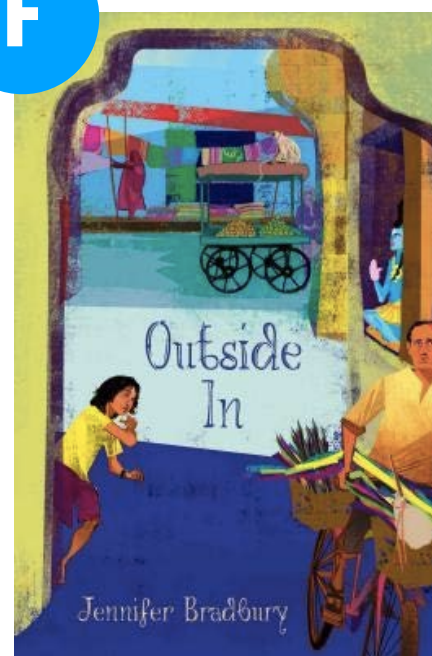
F



*Dream Something Big:*  
By Dianna Hutts Aston

A fictionalized retelling of the creation of the Watts Towers in Los Angeles, *Dream Something Big* celebrates the creation of art from everyday materials.

F



*Outside In*  
By Jennifer Bradbury

In this historical fiction chapter book, a twelve-year-old boy stumbles upon Nek Chand's rock garden in Chandigarh, India and discovers the ways art can represent our humanity.

**F** = Fiction

**NF** = Nonfiction