

SOURCE



In spring 2021, nine sculpture students were given the challenge to create ideas for transforming a large styrofoam block. Each proposal had to visually encompass the student's reaction to humanity's interaction with their environment. The selected proposal would then be sculpted by the entire class.



Aaron Parker's idea was unanimously chosen by the class. His idea was to carve the block into a six-foot-long packing peanut, titled "Big Nuisance". The class worked collaboratively over seven weeks to finish the piece. The sculpture was so difficult to work with that the students had to use a chainsaw to cut the styrofoam.

"The idea behind the piece was to scale up something small and insignificant in order to elevate it to something significant. While the piece is definitely about our impact on the environment to some degree, my original idea was more interested in appreciating the unappreciated, and exploring the fact that scale matters."

— Aaron Parker, STUDENT SCULPTOR



SCULPTURE

For 2021's fine art book project, four additional students traveled around the state of Utah documenting "Big Nuisance" in the wild. The resulting images can be found in *Utopia: State of Abstraction* created by The Department of Art and Design.