



Pushing the Limits of Connection Featured Video and Discussion Questions

Connecting with each other and our histories is an important part of being human. In your groups, consider the common threads of family and societal connections, and how our interactions have changed over time with our ever-expanding ability to remain connected.

Roxanne Swentzell

Sculptor Roxanne Swentzell was born with a speech impediment that made it hard to communicate with the world around her - until the first time she worked in clay. She is now a renowned sculptor with works displayed around the world. Her art connects her heritage from a long line of Native pot makers, with her contemporary views of family and culture. Her connection to the land goes back for thousands of years, and she's reaffirmed that as a founder of the Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute in New Mexico. She and her grown children Rose and Porter constantly endeavor to push their limits by listening to the past and leaving important messages for the future.

- What did you think of Roxanne and her family? What did you think of her art?
- What do you think about the notion of the artists as experimenters, since they find materials, mix them, and create structures with them? Have you ever experimented with different materials for an art project or a home project?
- How do you see Roxanne's work pushing limits by connecting the past and the future? (Note that there are multiple answers: building houses using old technologies that will last for generations to come; combining old knowledge about materials with new ideas to create a modern kind of art; living and working with her grown children and now grandchildren.)
- Are there ways in which science helps form connections for our community?
- What are some examples of where science and art overlap?

