

Issue #5 – 11 May, 2020

GIANT PUPPETS

Welcome back readers.

This week's topic is a big deal! Giant puppets have fascinated humans for generations. Different cultures have used local materials to craft larger-thanlife figures for celebrations and ceremonies, each developing their own visual style. Like these traditional puppets from Indonesia and Mozambique:



Puppets of this scale are typically operated by one or two puppeteers depending on the amount of movement required. Using lightweight construction materials is essential for the comfort of the puppeteer, who may be carrying the puppet for a long time. Giant puppets can be sleek and simple, like the ones from the Kaleido Festival, or loud and colourful, like at Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago:



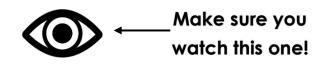
With the development of modern machinery, large scale puppetry has taken on a whole new meaning. Cranes are used to manipulate puppets larger than buildings, while whole teams of puppeteers operate their limbs:



Robotics has also taken a standing role in contemporary puppetry, allowing puppeteers to manipulate fine motions of enormous puppets from a distance:



And sometimes giant puppet means something else entirely:



Which giant puppet was your favourite?

Tune in next week for even more puppet shenanigans!