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Anish Kapoor, "Cloud Gate," 2004
 By combining distorted images of spectators and their surroundings, the piece encourages us "to consider how we as individuals face a culture, with all the superficiality, speed and visual reflection and really make it ours," says Jonathan Fineberg, a professor of art history at the University of Illinois.



Jaume Plensa, Crown Fountain, 2004
 Buckingham Fountain is a memorial surrounded by a fence to keep spectators out. This fountain in Millennium Park is a tribute to city residents, who are encouraged to step into its shallow water and look at themselves.



Magdalena Abakanowicz "Agora," 2006
 Walking through the installation of 106 headless figures provokes a flood of associations. Among them: war, nature, democracy and isolation. Their juxtaposition helps viewers reflect on the connection among them.



Denise Milan and Ary Perez, "Americas' Courtyard," 1998
 According to the artists, the piece is "a metaphor of an America where countries can live in harmony." The multicolored granite block, which can be rearranged in a variety of designs, also encourages a sense of community by drawing those who sit on it into a circle.



Dan Peterman, "Running Table 1999"
 Like many of the environmental artist's works, his 100-foot picnic table made from 2 million plastic milk bottles fosters a sense of community, while commenting on the implications of our consumption.



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