

July 10, 2024

Wire Sculptures

Metal wire has been used to make jewelry and small trinkets since the 2nd dynasty in Egypt, and the bronze ages in Europe. It was many years later when wire sculpting began as an art form.

Wire sculpture is a type of sculpture that uses wire as the primary medium. Wire sculptures can be made using various types of wire, including copper, aluminum, and steel. Wire sculptures can be created using a variety of techniques, including twisting, coiling, and weaving. Wire sculptures can be either freestanding or hung on a wall.



by Richard Stainthorpe

Creatives have been using wire to make sculptures for many years, with the earliest recordings coming from the 20th century.

You cannot talk about the origins of wire art without talking about Alexander “Sandy” Calder. He was a man who contributed greatly to the development of wire art as we know it today. After a stint of making toys for a Parisian merchant, Alexander began creating one of his most famous pieces - *The Cirque Calder*.

(This excerpt was taken from <https://bsfixings.uk/blog/the-art-of-wire-sculpting/>)



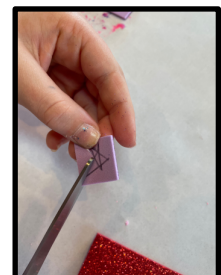
Let’s Make Wire Sculptures

Materials:

- 18 gauge wire
- scissors
- foam paper
- Play-Doh®
- jar lid

Process:

- 1) Find a comfortable place to work and pour out all your materials.
- 2) Begin by cutting your foam paper into any shapes you like. The possibilities are endless. Cut out a bunch of shapes so that you have a lot to choose from.





3) Take your wires and thread your foam shapes onto them. Put as many or as little as you like onto your wires. Leave ample room at the end of your wire so that you can push it through your Play-Doh® base. Set aside.

4) Make a base by combining your Play-Doh® any way you want. Perhaps you mash them all together or perhaps you stack them systematically. It's up to you how you create your base. (Olivia added a couple of teaspoons of glitter into her Play-Doh®!)

5) Take one of your wires and push it through the side of your base but pointing towards the bottom of your base. Keep pushing until it pops out of the bottom.

6) Twist, turn and loop your wire in and out of itself until you find a design you like. Take the other end of the wire and push it into the side and down through the bottom of your base. I then twisted the ends of the wire together and pushed them into the Play-Doh® to give the wire more stability. *(Please feel free to have your children put the wires into the Play-Doh® any way they like but be aware that when the Play-Doh® dries it becomes less sticky and the wires can fall out. This is why I suggested twisting them together at the bottom.)*



7) Move the shapes on your wire until you have them where you like them.

8) Repeat steps #5-7 with your second wire.

9) Place your sculpture into the jar lid and arrange it however you like. I used the extra bits of foam paper to fill in the lid of the jar. Be creative and add any special touches you like.

10) Be proud of your creation and bring it back to Old Town Square next Wednesday so that we can display it for all of Fort Collins to see!

Follow us on Instagram @nola_creative_company as we will be featuring artwork from each week. We will not use full names or identify your children in any way other than using their first name in order to give credit.

About the Art for the Heart Program

Art for the Heart is a program of the Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority and NOLA Creative Company.

All returned projects will be displayed in our outdoor kiosk located in between Coopersmith's Pub and Poolside restaurants.

Each art project returned will earn you a punch on our "Frequent Artists" punch card. Artists with consistent participation will be awarded prizes at the end of the program. All projects will be returned to you the following week after they have been displayed.

You can find all of our past projects and more information about the program at <https://downtownfortcollins.org/art-for-the-heart/>

This project is brought to you by:



and

