

Wire Sculpture

Materials:

Images of Alexander (Sandy) Calder's early wire work
Examples of wire sculpture
20 gauge galvanized wire - 400 ft
Needle nosed pliers
Construction paper

Vocabulary:

Space	2-dimensional
Proportion	3-dimensional
Contours	

Set-up:

Cut 3 foot lengths of wire for each student.
Create a couple of sample sculptures in both 2- and 3-dimensions

Discussion:

Share images of Alexander (Sandy) Calder's early wire works. Discuss the history and philosophy on his art. Address the use of space, dimensions, proportion and contours.

Procedure:

- Pass around examples of wire sculptures. While you are discussing the work, bend a sample wire into simple shapes. Show the students that what it becomes changes with each bend - like looking at clouds. Let their imagination determine what it could become. Show the students how to use the pliers to bend and cut the wire. Also show them how to use other objects available to them to bend the wire, such as pencils, doorknobs, chair legs etc.
- Hand out the wire and let the student play for a while until they see an image emerge. The final creation can be either 2- or 3-dimensional. Allow for additional wire as available.
- The final sculptures can be mounted on large sheets of construction paper for a background.

Reference:

The Calder Foundation - <http://www.calder.org/>

Virtual Gallery Tour at the National Gallery of Art -
<http://www.nga.gov/exhibitions/caldwel.htm>

Illinois State Standards

LS 25.A.2d - Identify and describe the elements of 2- and 3- dimensional space, figure ground, value and form; the principles of rhythm, size, proportion and composition; and the expressive qualities of symbols and story.

LS 26.A.2e - Describe the relationships among media, tools/technology and processes.

LS 26.B.2d - Demonstrate knowledge and skills to create works of visual art using problem solving, observing, designing, sketching and constructing.