

BYU MUSEUM OF ART

August 2022 - Open Studio

WELCOME!

At the Museum of Art, we are lucky to have an impressive variety of sculpture. Some of the pieces in the sculpture garden are very **realistic** and **figurative**. Others are more **abstracted** and allow you to use your imagination!

Today we will compare and contrast three sculptures that are varying levels of realism and abstraction. Remember that even though the sculptures are outside, we need to keep them safe by not touching them. However, feel free to look closely and walk around the sculptures so you can get a good look at them from all angles!

LET'S GET STARTED!



Little Dancer, 1986
Angelo Caravaglia
Bronze

First, take a look at *Little Dancer* by Angelo Caravaglia. Based on her footwear and pose, it appears that this little girl is in the middle of practicing ballet. Sometimes when an artist wants to express a thought or feeling, they use something called a **gesture**. Figural sculptures, such as this one, use a subject's arms, legs, hands, and even head to create gesture lines that tell a story through movement.

When you look at this sculpture, what words come to mind? (graceful, happy, silly, focused, etc).

How does the dancer's pose connect to the words that you used to describe her?

NEXT SCULPTURE!

Now, let's check out *Maxine* by Neil Wesley Haddock. There are aspects of this sculpture that make it both similar and different from *Little Dancer*. *Maxine* is made up of basic geometric shapes and it doesn't have the details of other figurative sculptures in the garden. However, there are aspects of this piece that still feel very human.

How does the artist use shapes and gesture lines to make this sculpture feel human? What words would you use to describe what *Maxine* looks like/what she's doing?



Maxine, 1992
Neil Wesley Haddock
Bronze



This sculpture is very different from *Little Dancer* but the two pieces actually have one big thing in common: they are both made from **bronze**! Bronze is generally a mixture of about 88% copper and 12% tin. It's a great sculpture material because it's very strong, easy to weld, and corrosion resistant. The “**lost wax**” process for casting bronze dates back as early as 4,500 BC. and has been used and rediscovered throughout history and all over the world.

(For more about bronze casting, scan the above QR code for a video!)



LAST ONE!

Finally, let's look at *Sefa II* by Frank Riggs.

From your first impression, what makes this sculpture different from *Little Dancer* and *Maxine*?

Maxine, 1992
Neil Wesley Haddock
Bronze

Sefa II is made of **aluminum** instead of bronze. The aluminum is assembled by welding the pieces together. (To learn more about welding, scan the QR code to watch a video!)

Although *Sefa II* has strong gesture lines like the other pieces we've looked at, it's different because it's very **abstract**. Abstract art is when an artist isn't trying to represent something realistically in their work. They use shapes, colors, textures, and lines to express meaning.

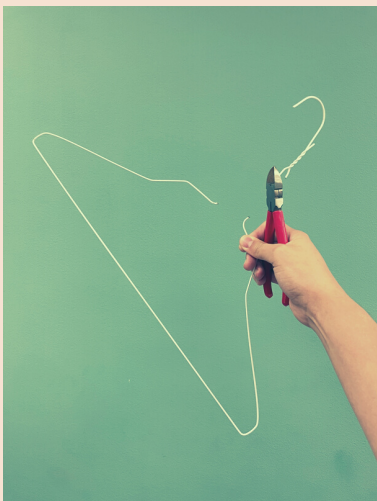


What does this piece remind you of? Use your imagination!

Frank Riggs loved the outdoors, especially Utah's parks such as Zion's, Bryce Canyon, and Arches. Much of his art was inspired by natural and organic forms he saw when he was hiking. Now that you know this about him, what elements of this sculpture might be inspired by Utah's scenery?

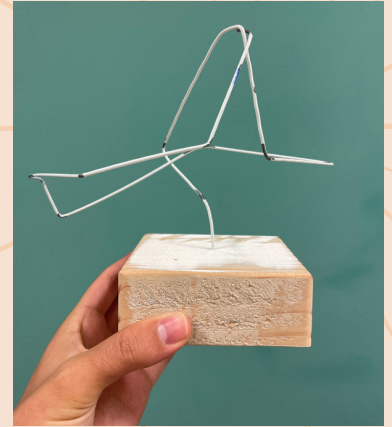
LET'S MAKE A SCULPTURE!

Today we looked at some really cool examples of **figurative** and **abstract** sculpture! We talked about how artists use **gesture** lines to show **movement** and **emotion** in their sculptures. Now, it's your turn to make a sculpture! Follow the instructions below:



- First, you need an idea! Choose an emotion that you want to express with this sculpture. It could be happy, sad, confused, silly, angry, etc.
- Because pouring bronze and welding steel can be a *little* expensive and a *little* dangerous, we are going to use some unique materials. Grab a wood block, a hanger, and a nylon stocking.
- With the help of an adult, cut off the hooked part of the hanger. The hooked piece may be discarded. Begin bending and twisting the hanger to create gesture lines and shapes that indicate the emotion you chose for the sculpture.

- When you are finished shaping the hanger, use a hammer to drive one end of the hanger into the center of the wood block. The wood block becomes like a pedestal for the wire sculpture.
- Now, carefully stretch the nylon stocking over your wire sculpture. Avoid ripping or creating a run in the stocking. Stretch it tightly and adjust the wire to desired shape.
- Choose a color for your sculpture. You can use one color or many colors to express the emotion that you chose for the piece. Either way, you need to spray paint a base coat onto your sculpture. Make sure to follow the educator's directions for using the spray paint carefully!



- Wait about 10 or 15 minutes until your sculpture is mostly dry to the touch. If you want to add color or detail on top of the spray paint layer, head inside to the art studio. There you can use a paint brush and acrylic paint to add your finishing touches.
- After the paint is completely dry, you can trim the excess nylon stocking off the underside of the wood block/pedestal.
- Give your sculpture a name!
- Thank you for visiting the Museum of Art and participating in Open Studio! Come back soon!

For children who might struggle with bending wire, an alternative pipe cleaner project is available! Ask an educator for instructions!

