

# Wild Wires

**Principle:** Form and Shape in 3D

**Concept:** Wire can be manipulated to create a mood, a gesture or contour.

**Objective:** Create a wire sculpture that expresses a mood or gesture.

<b>Supplies:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Aluminum and colored wire. Colored 20 gauge wire should be cut into 3 foot lengths.</li><li>✓ Material for base (wood block)</li><li>✓ Staple gun to assist in mounting</li><li>✓ Wire cutters</li><li>✓ Black spray paint</li></ul>
------------------	--

<b>Pre-Class Prep:</b>	Schedule with the teacher a week ahead to show the Calder slides from the Meet the Masters program (in the yellow cabinet in the art room) and 19 minute video to the class titled Calder's <u>Circus</u> (located in the library).
------------------------	---

Spray paint the provided wood bases with black spray paint. (Work with your 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Art Coordinator to organize this).

<b>Set-up:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set out pencils for students to write their names on their wood.</li><li>• Set out the wire cutters for each student</li><li>• Put out different colored wire for students to choose from.</li><li>• It would be helpful to designate one volunteer to staple sculptures to bases.</li></ul>
----------------	--

**Prints:** Check out Calder film located in the Duniway library and set up the Meet the Masters Calder Slides. These should be shown in the classroom the week before the lesson. (19 minute film). It is too long to show during this lesson.

**Samples:** See samples on corner table in Art Room.

**Lesson:** **Demonstration:** Talk about different ways wire is used (i.e. commercially, telephones, TV, radio, lights, paper clips, bed springs). Discuss how other materials are used *with* wire to create art forms including paper mache, wire screens, glass jewels or beads, and sculpture materials like clay, pipe cleaners. Show how wire can be wrapped around a pencil to create coils.

**Students:** Have students think of a gesture or pose someone might take while performing a sport or other task. You can have the students (or you) pose for another student if they are having trouble imagining the way the body would look in motion. Using that image, have students

create a wire shape by bending and twisting the wire into that position. The best way to get the shape of the figure is to create a wire "outline" from one piece of colored wire, starting at the foot bending up the leg past the waist to the arm, forming the arm like they were drawing an outline, moving back to the shoulder then around the head and back down the other side forming the other arm and leg.

Add smaller pieces of wire as needed by winding it around the main shape to create details in the sculpture and to add bulk. Encourage the students to braid or twist pieces together, prior to adding to the sculpture, to create a more substantial and colorful piece.

Have students leave their figures laying on top of the wood blocks with their names on it at the end of class.

---

<b>After Class:</b>	Use staple gun to mount completed sculpture to wood block base. Be sure to include student's name and teacher to underside of base. Store in box with teacher's name in the boy's locker room.
---------------------	--

### **Instructions for Instructors**

**Vocabulary:** Free form, pliable, contour, gesture, mobile

Try making a figure before teaching the class.

You may use your discretion as to whether the wire cutters should be used by the students themselves or the parent volunteers.