



PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Parrish Home Art Studios

ALUMINUM FOIL FIGURES

Many of the sculptures in the museum's exhibition [*Field of Dreams*](#) are made of metal. Metal is an ideal material for outdoor sculpture because it is long-lasting and resilient to most weather conditions.

Some artists work directly with metal to make a sculpture, using saws, nuts, bolts and heat to shape their work. Others will make sculptures from different materials such as clay or wax, even an existing object, and then make a mold of this first form to be cast in metal. It can be quite a process!



Joel Shapiro (American, born 1941), Untitled, 2014, Bronze, 120 x 100 x 50 inches, Courtesy of the artist and Kasmin Gallery, NY

Let's take a closer look at Joel Shapiro's sculpture, *Untitled*, (pictured above) which you can see in person by visiting the Parrish Art Museum meadow. This sculpture is made up of bronze rectangular forms and certainly reminds us of a figure in motion. Shapiro achieves this by arranging simple rectangular shapes of varying sizes without rounding or bending the corners to accurately represent the human form. We, the viewer, don't need this sculpture to be an exact representation of a person to know this sculpture is an abstracted human figure in motion!

Let's Create!

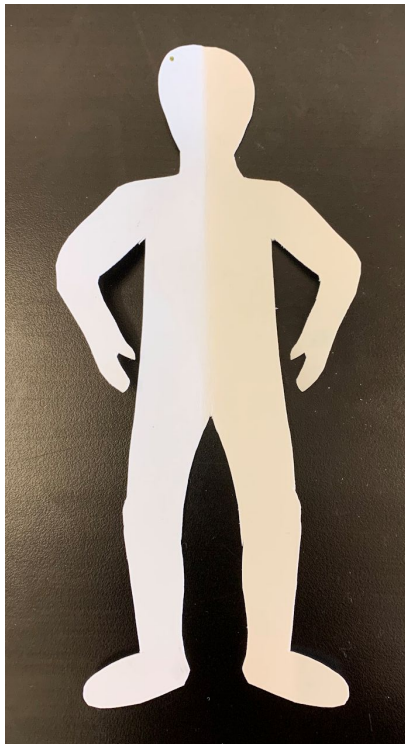
While we might not be able to weld large pieces of bronze at home, we can use aluminum foil to create our own figurative and abstracted metal figures! Below are 2 examples of different techniques for creating foil sculptures. Try them both!

Materials:

Aluminum foil

Scissors

Cardboard, card stock or heavy paper.



STEP 1

For our first technique, draw a paper template of the figure you want for your sculpture. Your art doesn't have to represent a person, you can make an animal, or whatever you choose! Cut out your paper template.

STEP 2

Lay your paper figure onto a sheet of foil. Focus on where the head, arms, torso and legs are and snip the sides of the foil near those areas, as the image to the right shows.



STEP 3

Gently begin to fold the foil around the paper shape, pinching and shaping the foil to take the shape of your figure. If the foil tears, no problem! Add more foil as a patch, or to "fatten" up your figure!



STEP 4

Once entirely covered, you can bend your sculpture into different poses.

Try another technique!

STEP 1

Starting with a sheet of foil, imagine where you'll want your figure's head, arms, torso and legs to be. As in the previous step 2, snip the sides of the foil to guide you as you pinch, form and model the foil.



STEP 2

Gently start to shape the foil into your desired form. If you need to add more to thicken any areas, just pinch and squeeze extra foil pieces onto your form to attach them.

STEP 3

Your sculpture can be posed in many ways!

You can make more figures and pose them together. Have fun!



TAKE IT FURTHER

Visit the outdoor exhibition *Field of Dreams* at the Parrish Art Museum. Learn more about the artist and artwork by using your smartphone to scan the QR codes.

Field of Dreams

August 20, 2020 - August 31, 2021



We would love to see what you made. To share, post your artwork to Instagram with the hashtag #ParrishHomeArtStudio