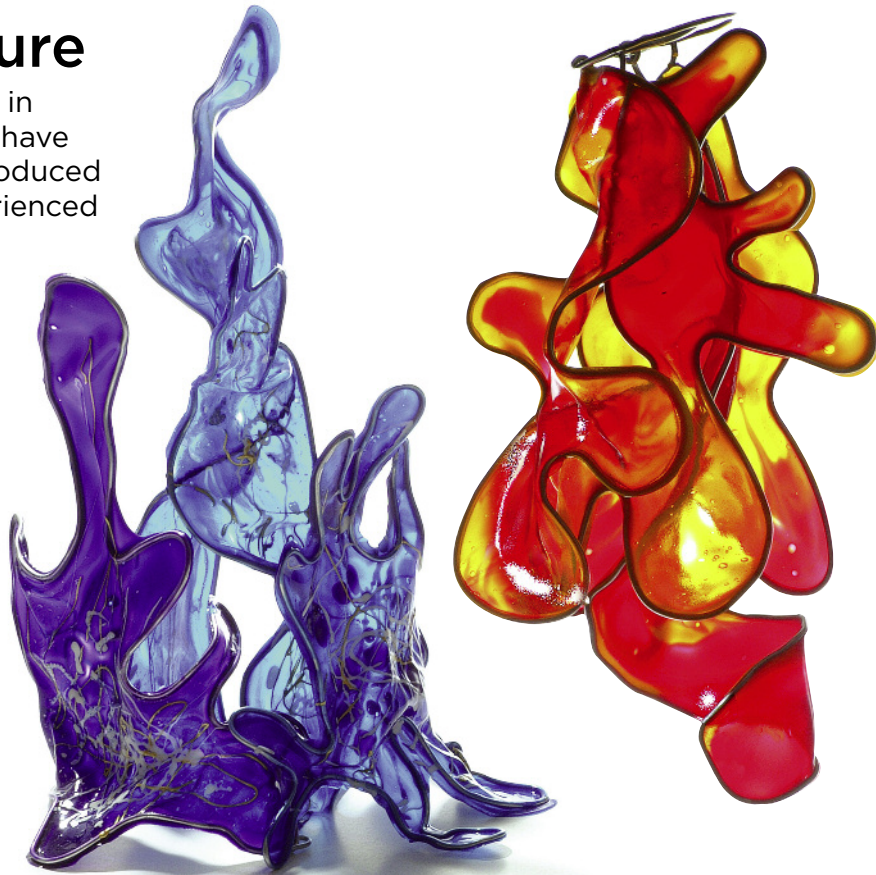


Flexible “Glass” Sculpture

Glass as a medium for expression is increasing in popularity with studio artists. New techniques have brought glass out of the functional, factory-produced realm to incorporate it into never-before experienced sculptures of light, color and form.

This lesson plan will introduce students to the qualities that artists are drawn to with the glass medium. It also challenges them to open their eyes to the abstract form. The sculptures are arranged from multiple components that may be shaped, bent, curled, stretched and rearranged over and over until the desired balance and form is achieved. With simple, easy-to form aluminum sculpture wire and a unique paint called Arti' Stiks, the process is relatively simple. Originally formulated for creating window clings, Arti' Stik is an acrylic paint that dries slowly to form an extremely flexible, transparent film. It has a high-gloss self-leveling surface that resembles blown or frameworked hot glass. This project will need 2 or 3 periods of class time.



Grade Levels 5-12

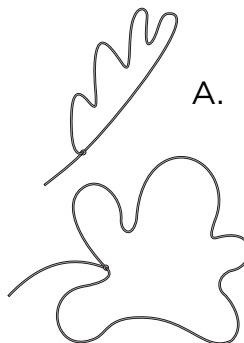
Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Objectives

- Students will create 2-dimensional surfaces with paint, then use these paintings as the components of a 3-dimensional sculpture.
- Students will assemble a free-standing sculpture that is may be viewed from any angle.
- Students will be challenged to think in terms of abstract sculpture, emphasizing form, shape and balance to create a visually satisfying piece of art.

Process

1. Cut the aluminum sculpture wire into 18" lengths. Students bend each length into a free-form shape, twisting the end to close and allowing at least 1" extra wire at the end, see (A), at right, for examples of shapes. Encourage students to use variety in forming their pieces.



Materials

Aluminum Sculpture Wire, 14-gauge (33400-1435), 350-ft coil, need three 18" lengths per student

Pebeo Arti' Stick Window Cling Paint, assorted colors (00700-), 500-ml bottles, share at least three bottles across the classroom

Dynasty® Economy Camel Hair Brushes (05118-9144), set of 144 brushes, share across classroom

Non-glare sheet protectors, available from office supply stores

Heavy corrugated cardboard to dry pieces on

2. Place a non-glare sheet protector on a piece of corrugated cardboard or another rigid surface. Multiple pieces can be used on large pieces of cardboard. Sheet protectors can be cut open and overlapped. Place the wire shapes on the sheet protectors, making sure they lay as flat as possible.
3. Paint the pieces by filling the center with Artix Stik Paint. Squeeze approximately 2 tablespoons of the color directly from the bottle onto the sheet protector, then use a brush to move it to the edges. HINTS:
 - It is important to cover the wire with the paint. Excess can be removed with scissors after drying.
 - Colors may be swirled together or dripped across one another to add excitement.
 - The colors will appear opaque while wet, but will dry transparent, with the exception of the white, black, silver and gold (they will remain opaque).
4. Move the pieces to a location where they can dry undisturbed. Allow to dry for at least 24 hours in normal conditions; humidity or thick applications may slow drying time. The paint is dry when it appears transparent and pulls easily away from the sheet protector.
5. Once the pieces are dry, they can be bent, curled and shaped to create a free-standing, 3-dimensional sculpture. Use the excess wire to join pieces together if desired, or simply position them to interact with one another. Trim excess wire away with wire snips. Excess paint can be trimmed away from the wire or left as part of the sculpture.
6. The finished sculpture can be displayed as a free-standing piece or hung upside down, chandelier-style. Position near a light source to enhance the transparency of the piece — place on a window sill, hang from a light fixture, arrange in a lighted display cabinet.

NOTE: do not place too close to a light bulb or near a flame or sculpture may soften and become tacky.

National Standards:

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

- **5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experience and ideas.
- **9-12** Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques and processes they use.

Content Standard #5 — Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

- **5-8** Students compare multiple purposes for creating works of art.
- **9-12** Students identify intentions of those creating artworks, explore the implications of various purposes and justify their analysis of purposes in particular works.