



Alexander Calder

1898 –1976

presentation of the work

required age:
starting from 9
years

educational interest:

- This lesson teaches creative thinking because each variation requires the solving of new problems. Creative thinking is required to figure out how to cope with the new limitations.

encounter with the work:

- Introduction of the artist Alexander Calder. He was impressed with drawing lines so later he started to create figures with wire.
- The teacher doesn't show the artist's work to the students so they wouldn't copy it.



source : www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2008/10/17/arts/1017-CALD_4.html.

work's analysis

- Typical wire sculpturing
- Sketches of animals in the movement. Lines represent wire.
- Balanced statue
- Details

Creative process

pedagogical organization

- ↪ Familiarization with the sculptor Calder.
- ↪ A slide show based on A. Calder.
- ↪ http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2008/10/17/arts/1017-CALD_index.html
- ↪ Encounter with working process- how to create wire sculpture
- ↪ Instructions for safe work with wire

duration

- ↪ Observation, explanation, talk 20 min.
- ↪ Making sketches of the animals 10 min.
- ↪ Sculpting the statue 45 min.
- ↪ Making details on wire sculpture 10 min.
- ↪ Evaluation 5 min.

implemented resources / materials (per student)

- ❑ tools : Wire sculpture requires pliers for every student and wire cutters to be shared at each work table.
- ❑ materials: sealing tape, sheet of paper, pencil, thin wire, thick styrofoam

<http://www.bartelart.com/arted/wiresculpture.htm>

learning objectives

- ↪ Students develop the feeling for lines in 3D.
- ↪ Students know that lines represent wire in the sculpture in movement.
- ↪ Students acquire experience for wire balanced sculptures.



"Alexander Calder: The Paris Years, 1926-1933," at the Whitney Museum of American Art through Feb. 15, includes an assortment of his wire portrait heads.

source: <http://graphics8.nytimes.com/images/2008/10/17/arts/17cald.large.L.jpg>

Alexander Calder

In the Paris years he used it for portraits. His first subject was a star he admired from afar, Josephine Baker. She was the toast of the town in the 1920s. One look at film clips of her dancing a semi-nude Charleston tells you why. Calder made five small Baker figures; four are in the show. With their tiny heads, spiraling breasts and long, long single-strand legs, they catch something of the image Baker wanted to project: that of an ethnographic specimen come to irrepressibly self-amused life. He made other figures too, of the tennis champion Helen Wills, of John D. Rockefeller playing golf. They are the work of a pop illustrator, clever but nothing special. But for people he actually knew, portrait heads were the form of choice. Of the 18 examples in the show, most depict people Calder had met in avant-garde circles in Paris, including celebrity friends like Edgard Varèse, Joan Miró and Alice Prin, the multitasking muse better known as Kiki de Montparnasse. You can see why Calder did these likenesses: they were an attention-getting novelty; they advertised his skill; they gave him a pretext to network.

progress

- students tasks



session 1

- Observation of movement.
- Observation of the lines that were created by wrapping a student. Lines are wires in statue.
- Drawing the motif of animal in movement.
- Observe sketches of the animals.
- Instructions for safe handling with wire.
- Making the sculptures of animals in motion.
- Making balanced 3D sculpture.

session 2

- Adding details to a sculpture with thin wire.
- Students observe classmate's pieces of work and evaluate them.
- Observe the sculptures of the famous sculptor Alexander Calder.

- instructions

session 1

- We will make a sculpture of animals in motion.
- First, we will observe the movement of students.
- We will use the tape. One student's body will be wrapped around with the tape.
- The lines represent a wire in your sculpture.
- Using thicker wire we will create balanced sculpture.
- **BE SAFE** - Shorter wire lengths are less apt to accidentally hit yourself or another person's face or eye. For younger kids, we can pre-bend the tips of the pieces back so they don't poke. Thinner and softer wire and pipe cleaners are safer than stiffer and thicker wires.

session 2

- Pay attention to the details.
- Do not forget to add details to a sculpture of animals. Use thin wire.
- After work observe creations of other students and evaluate them.
- Observe the sculptures of the famous sculptor Alexander Calder.

- teacher's role





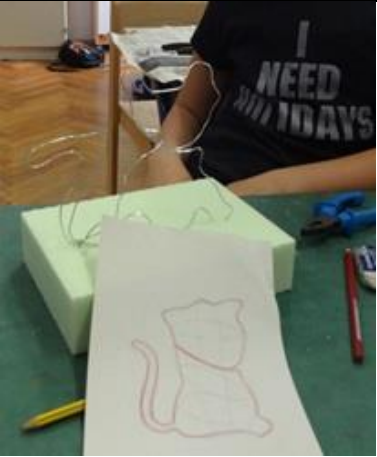

session 1

- Presentation of the movement.
- Motivate the students for showing different movements.
- Guiding students to observe carefully the movement and the tape around the student's body which presents lines in sketch and wires in sculpture.
- Guiding the students when they sketch animals in movement.
- Guiding the students during sculpturing with wire.

session 2

- Guiding students when they add the details.
- Guiding students when they evaluate each other statues.
- Presentation of the famous sculptor Alexander Calder and his work.

implementation steps

<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> 
<p>A time of play and experimentation. Student is posing as a model in an active and passive three-dimensional pose.</p>	<p>The line is a wire. Make three-dimensional sketch. Student sketch the animal in motion.</p>
<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> 
<p>Make wire animals.</p>	<p>They learn that their own working process can generate successful results.</p>
<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> 
<p>A student's sketch and a wire sculpture</p>	<p>A wire sculpture</p>

Possible extensions

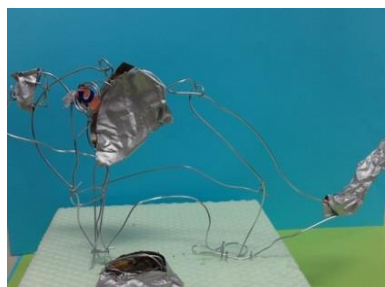
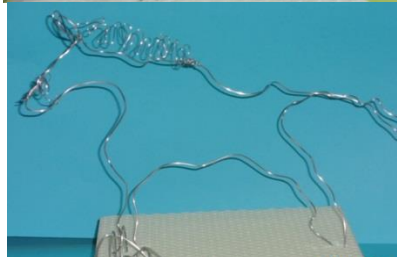
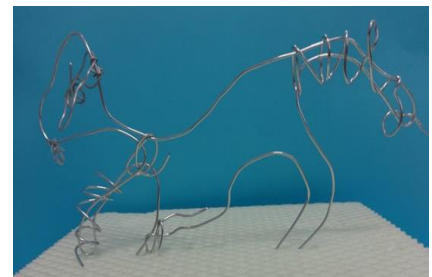
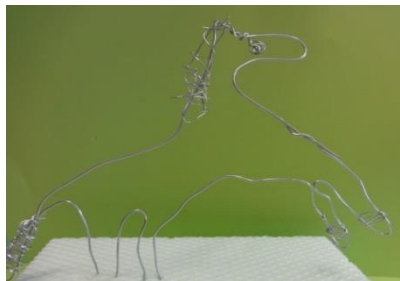
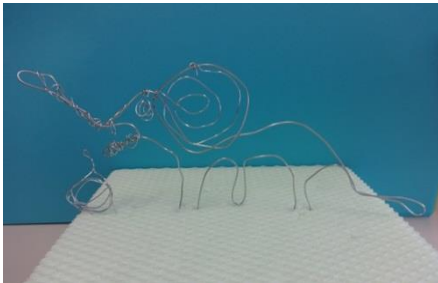
The teacher asks students to grade or rank some wire pieces by an artist like Alexander Calder. His sculptures are exhibited in many major cities and in nearly all major museums. Calder's Circus was an early work in wire used for a moving circus performances.



✎ Janez Boljka - slovenski kipar, slikar in grafik, * 21. junij 1931, Subotica, † 20. avgust 2013, Ljubljana

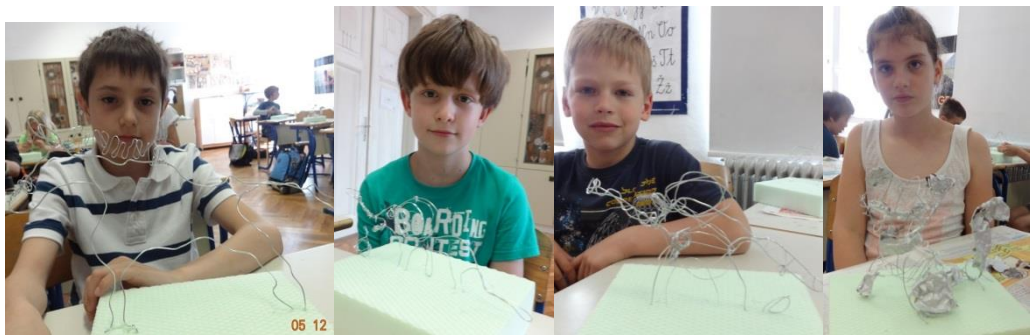
✎ <http://www.rtvsl.si/kultura/drugo/poslovil-se-je-kipar-in-slikar-janez-boljka/315798>

FINALE - some of finished statues EXHIBITION





YOUNG ARTISTS



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