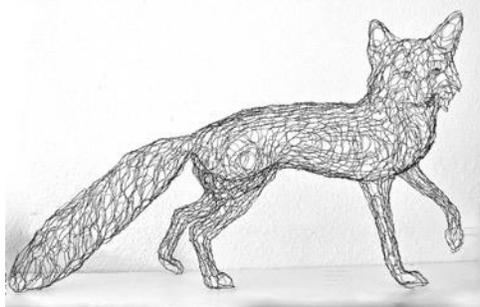


# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade LWSD Art Docent Project: 3D Wire Animals

## Artistic Focus: Form

**Objective:** To practice thinking in 3D by manipulating pliable wire into the shape of an animal.

**Artistic Influence:** The 3D wire animals of sculptor Elizabeth Berrien.



### Materials:

- **A pair of wire cutters** (for docent use only in preparing the wire for students)
- **Pliable wire**
  - 17-gauge aluminum craft wire is about 1.2 mm thick and is very pliable.
  - A search for “17-gauge aluminum craft wire” on Amazon.com will reveal many options (one option pictured to the right).
  - You need at least 1 meter of wire per student; 2 or 3 might be better, depending on how much time you have available.
  - Another option is “rubber coated flexible tie,” available on Amazon or, less expensive at Ben Franklin in Redmond; this is very pliable and coated with a soft surface that protects from scratches.

### BENECREAT

High Quality Aluminum Wire



7 Shiny Vibrant Color & 3 Different Size

Good Choice for Jewelry Making and Craft Making



### Instructions and notes:

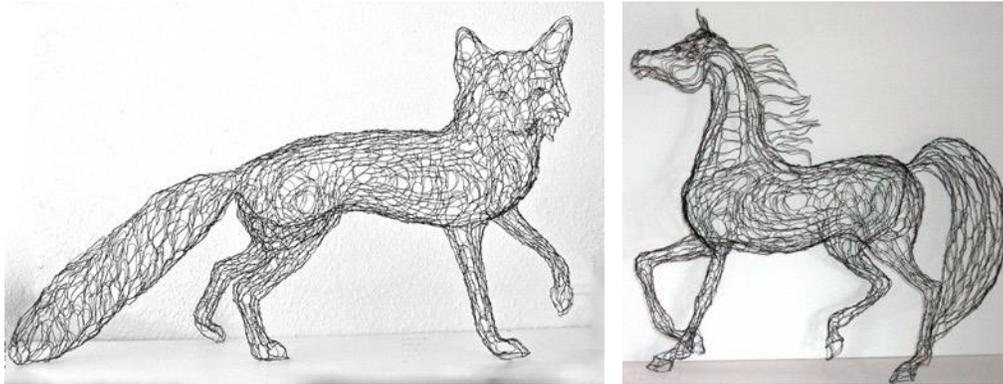
1. The steps for this lesson are very short. Elizabeth Berrien’s advice is to have students experiment.
2. The primary role of parent helpers in this lesson is to remind students to be careful with the sharp ends of their wire. They must move slowly with it, in order to avoid whipping the end around quickly and scratching themselves or their neighbors.
3. A minimum of 1 meter of wire is recommended per student, but you are welcome to give them 2 or 3 meters, if you would like them to try something more complex.
4. You may invite them to build one large animal or 2-3 small ones.
5. Invite students to share their art and talk about the process, if time allows.
6. Distribute parent information page for students to take home, and print an extra page to post on your bulletin board with the finished art. See following page.
7. Please complete the brief [LWSD Art Docent Program Feedback Survey](#) for this lesson.
8. Thank you for supporting our elementary students’ visual arts education.

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## LWSD Art Docent Project: 3D Wire Animals

The goal of this 5<sup>th</sup> grade lesson was to practice thinking in 3D by manipulating pliable wire into the shape of an animal.

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Wire Animals sculpted by Elizabeth Berrien

### **WA State Visual Arts Standard**

Develop a logical argument for safe and effective use of materials and techniques for preparing and presenting artwork. (VA:Pr5.1.5)

In this art lesson taught by volunteer art docents, students learned about the fantastic wire sculptures of American sculptor Elizabeth Berrien. She is known for her sculptures of animals, people and abstract forms. Her work is sometimes limited to two dimensions but usually expands into three dimensions. Berrien's wire sculptures can be found in museums, fine art galleries, private homes, landscapes and corporate settings around the world. She uses different kinds of wire, like steel, aluminum, copper, or even phone wire, sometimes painted.

Students had the opportunity to play with wire themselves and attempt to twist and bend the wire into an animal form of their own.