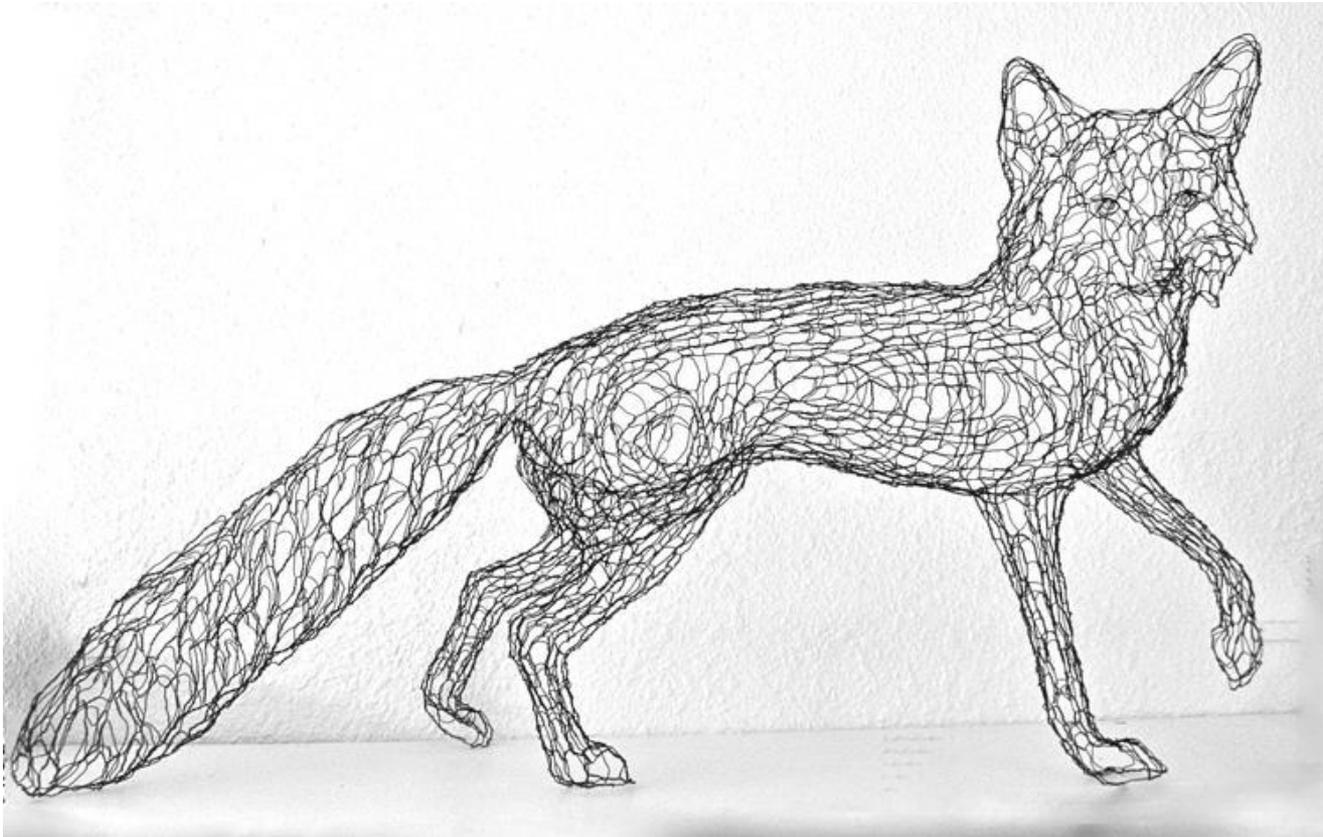


Grade 5 – Wire Animals



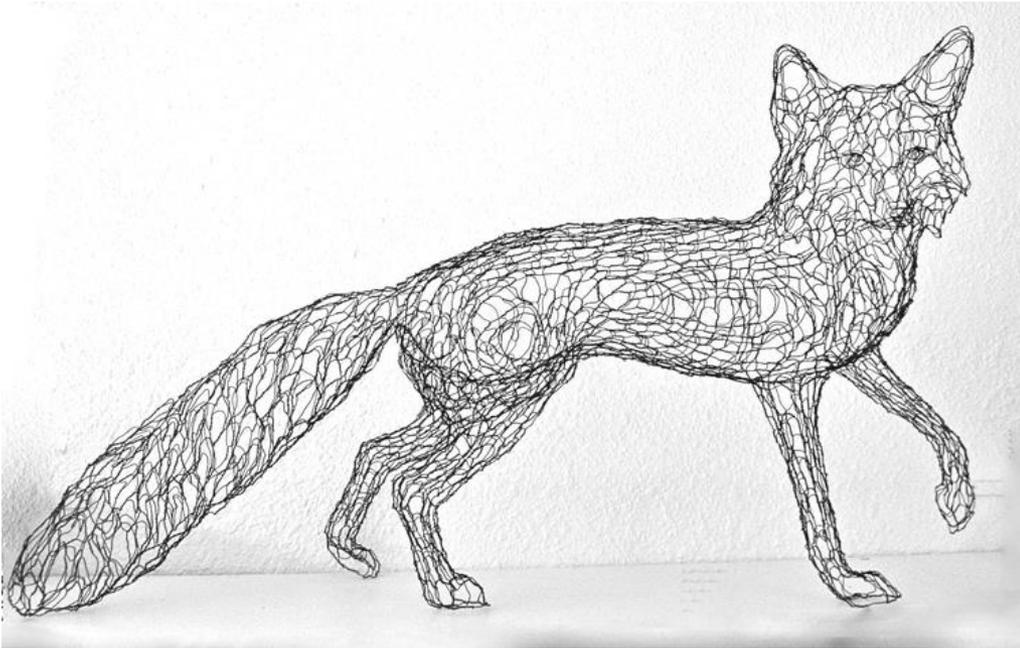
Form

What do you see?



Wire Fox by Elizabeth Berrien

Artistic Focus: Form



Wire Fox by Elizabeth Berrien

FORM in art is a three-dimensional object that has height, length, width, and depth.

Today's objective:

1. To examine the wire animal sculptures of Elizabeth Berrien.
2. To create simple wired animals that stand or sit on their own.

WA State Visual Arts Standard

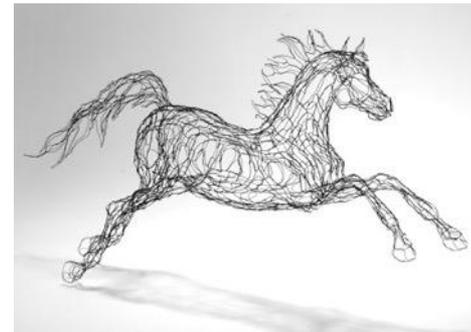
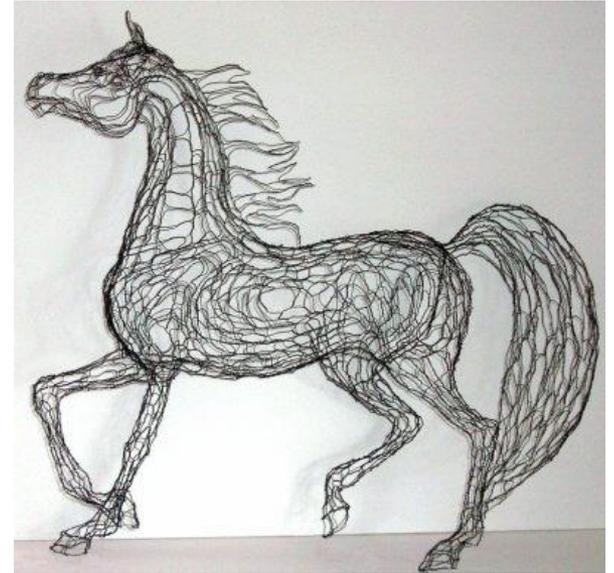
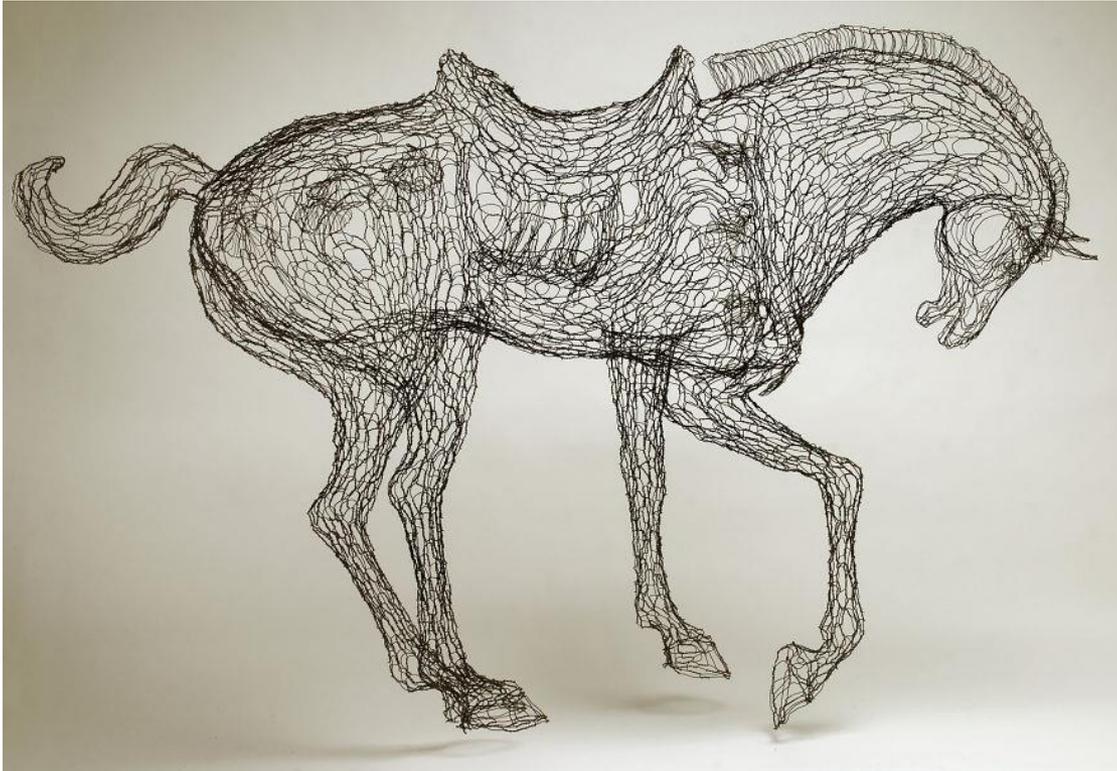
Develop a logical argument for safe and effective use of materials and techniques for preparing and presenting artwork. (VA:Pr5.1.5)

Elizabeth Berrien

- Award-winning wire sculptor and illustrator
- Lives in Humboldt County, north California
- Her wire sculptures can be found in museums, fine art galleries, private homes, landscapes and corporate settings around the world
- Uses different kinds of wire, like steel, aluminum, copper, or even phone wire, sometimes painted
- Credits her left-handedness for her career in wire, says that if she had known she was left-handed as a child, she would have drawn; wire forced her to work with both hands

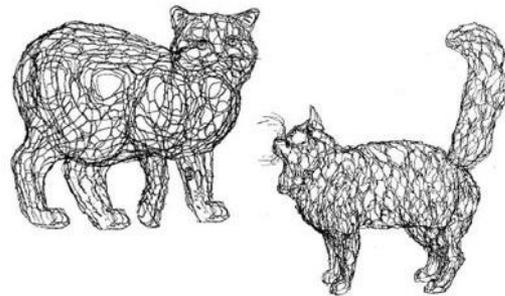
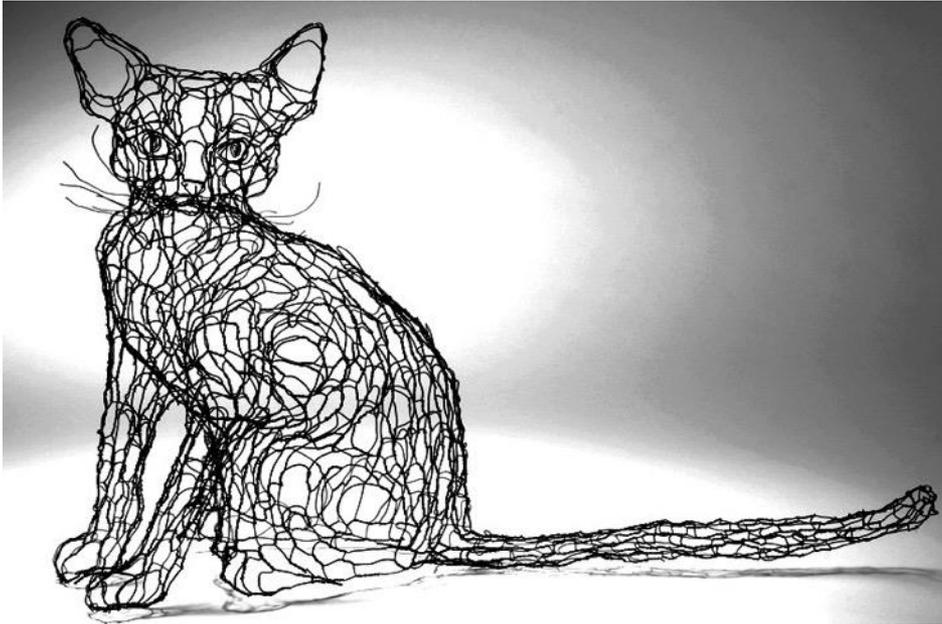


Artwork



Horses by Elizabeth Berrien
(Notice the shadows)

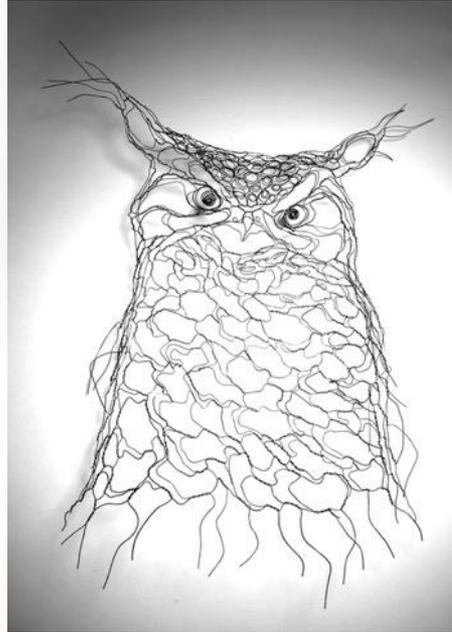
Artwork



Cats by Elizabeth Berrien

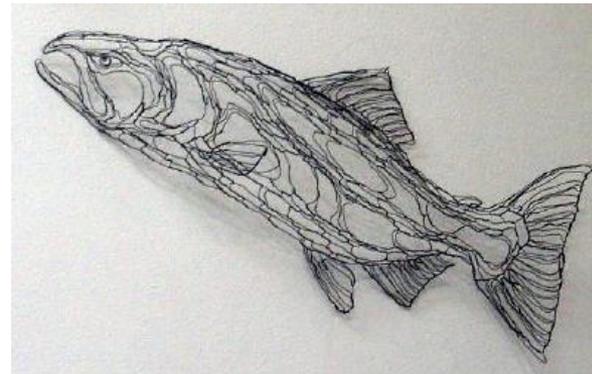
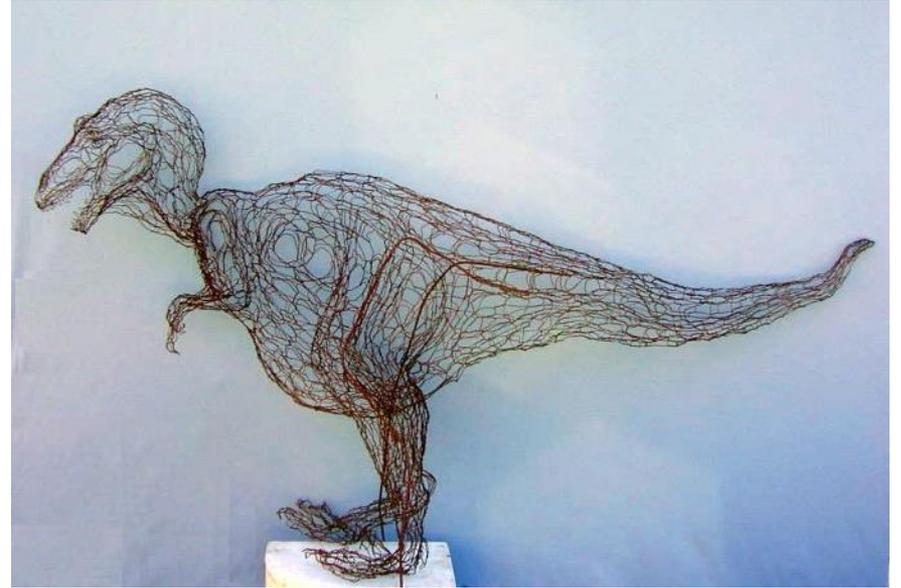


Artwork



Birds by Elizabeth Berrien

Artwork



Various animals by Elizabeth Berrien

Materials

Pliable wire (at least 1 meter per student, coated wire if possible)



Wire cutters or strong scissors
(for art docent use only)



Sticker labels for students' names
(can be Avery labels or simple strips
of tagboard taped or stapled in a
loop around the wire)

Example of Today's Project



Created with 1 meter of coated wire

Some Words about Wire

- Elizabeth Berrien says that she teaches the same way she learned from her high school art teacher.
- She says, “Go take this wire and mess with it ... There are no rules except for one, which is don’t poke your eye out.”
- When she visits schools, she gives students three pieces of wire each and simply tells them to play with it.
- She likes to see what students invent without specific guidance from her.
- If you want to try more wire sculpture at home, Berrien’s advice is to buy whatever wire feels good in your hand. She recommends not to use coat hangers, because those hurt your hands.
- It takes Berrien about 6 months to create something large like a giraffe; today we will make small sculptures that fit in your hand.



Step 1

- Elizabeth Berrien often starts with the face of her animal.
- You may start with the animal's face, the base or any part that you'd like.
- There are no more steps to this lesson; the rest is up to you!
- Just remember Berrien's one rule: **Don't poke your (or your neighbor's) eye out!**
- To avoid scratching yourself or your neighbor with the cut end of the wire:
 - Move the wire slowly as you turn it in your hands.
 - Avoid handling the cut end of your wire.
 - Be mindful of where the ends of your wire are at all times.



Reflection

- How did it feel to “mess with” the wire?
- How did you start constructing your animal?
- Would anyone like to share their art?



Credits

1. Elizabeth Berrien's websites: <http://wirezoo.com> & <http://wirelady.com>
2. Some information about Berrien's work taken from a YouTube interview posted on <http://wirelady.com/about.html> — direct link: <https://youtu.be/enRDCU-BPRO>
3. Original LWSD art samples, used with permission.