

Wire Sculpture: Mobiles & Stables



Joan Danzinger

Goal: Students will understand the concepts of kinetic sculpture, mobile and stable.

Teacher: Kathryn Moran

Grade Level: 10-12

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Standards:

- 9.1A Elements and Principles in each art form
- 9.1C Vocabulary within each art form
- 9.2C Styles and Genres in art
- 9.2L Common Themes in works of art

Objectives:

- Students will create thematic mobiles or stables from contour drawings using wire
- Students will understand various wire based sculpture techniques
- Students will create contour drawings from life or images of objects in their sketchbooks
- Students will create wire drawings from their contour line drawings
- Students will be able to define the following:
 - Kinetic
 - Mobile
 - Stabile
 - Contour

Requirements:

1. 10 contour drawings in sketchbooks from which five drawings will be selected to translate into wire.
2. A self evaluation in which they describe why they chose the five specific contour drawings using the elements and principals of art and design and referencing their theme
3. 5 wire contour sculptures
4. A mobile or stabile that connects all five wire sculptures
5. A self evaluation rubric

Materials:

- Sketchbook
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Wire
- Pliers
- Wire Cutters

- Pincers
- Small hammer

Teacher Preparation:

1. Assemble images of wire sculptures, mobiles, stabiles, kinetic sculptures, Alexander Calder's work, video of "The Circus", Shizuko Kimura's thread drawings, Andy Warhol's contour drawings & Joan Danzinger's wire stabiles
2. Create several contour drawings in various stages of completion
3. Create a self evaluation rubric as well as a homework handout students will use to describe their theme and why they chose their five drawings to translate into sculptures
4. Create a handout with various wire sculpture techniques and an explanation of the wire tools
5. Create a few wire sculptures that are not connected to each other
6. Create a mobile that fits all of the requirements

Teaching:

Introduction:

Begin the lesson by discussing the term "contour" and looking at various examples of artists who use contour drawing in their work. Students will practice contour and blind contour drawings of their hand. For homework, students must complete 10 contours drawings of objects that relate to each other, they must chose a theme for their sculpture.

At the beginning of the next class students will be introduced to Alexander Calder's circus. The wire sculpture tools and techniques handout will be distributed. The instructor will define the term kinetic art/sculpture referencing Calder's work. Kinetic art is art from any medium that contains movement perceivable by the viewer or depends on motion for its effect. Discuss how nature could influence movement in sculptures. The instructor will show students images of the kinetic sculpture derby that happens annually in Philadelphia. The instructor will define mobile and stabile. A mobile is a type of kinetic sculpture constructed to take advantage of the principle of equilibrium. A stabile is a type of stationary abstract sculpture, developed by the 20th century American artist Alexander Calder.

The instructor will ask students the following:

- Where have you seen kinetic sculpture in Philadelphia?
- What techniques did Calder use to make his wire sculptures mobile?
- Which examples of Calder's work are mobile and which are stabile?
- What other materials could be used to create a mobile sculpture?

At this point the students will spend some time selecting which drawings they would like to use to make their wire sculptures and will write a brief paragraph describing their

theme and, using the elements and principals of art design, their reasoning for their selection of drawings.

The instructor will demonstrate wire sculpture techniques and introduce the tools. Students will begin their sculptures.

Directions:

1. Choose a theme for your mobile or stabile
2. Create 10 drawings in your sketchbook of objects that are connected to your theme
3. Choose 5 drawings from the 10 in your sketchbook and write a brief paragraph describing your theme and why you chose the objects/drawings you chose (using the elements and principals of art and design)
4. Create five wire contour sculpture based on the five selected drawings
5. Connect the sculptures using the wrapping technique
6. Complete the self evaluation & group critique

Closure:

Students will complete the self- evaluation (rubric) and participate in the group critique referencing the requirements and the elements and principals of art and design.

Time Budget:

4-5 weeks

Safety Concerns:

The wire ends are sharp once they are cut. Students should be very careful with tools and wire and instructor should have band-aids and antiseptic on hand in case of emergency.

Extension:

Create a wrapped figurative sculpture that moves using one of Calder's techniques from "The Circus"

Extra Credit:

Find a kinetic sculpture in Philadelphia and take a "selfie" with the sculpture

Vocabulary:

- Kinetic art
- Mobile

- Stable
- Contour
- Wrapping