

Wire Metal Sculpture

Whitney Carter



This artwork demonstrates the concepts of malleability and ductility. Malleability is the ability of metal to be beaten or rolled into thin sheets, or the fact that wire can be shaped. Ductility is

the ability to draw metals out into wire. These are both mechanical properties of metals. I was working with aluminum wire for this activity. Aluminum is a non-ferrous base metal. It is also one of the lightest structural metals. Its low density makes it especially malleable and ductile.

Wire sculpture has been around for thousands of years. Recently it has evolved. It used to be more prevalent in jewelry, like the marble caging that I used in my piece. Now sculpting stand-alone pieces out of wire is an established art medium with artists like Alexander Calder, Ruth Asawa, and Gavin Worth paving the way. This piece to the right titled “And Light Fell on Her Face in Heavy Darkness,” is an example of wire sculpture. It is a stand-alone piece that is meant to be viewed from different angles in order to get the full effect.



<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Andlightfellonherface.jpg#>

“And Light Fell on Her Face in Heavy Darkness,” wire sculpture by Gavin Worth, c. 2010

I wanted to focus on contrast when I created this piece. There were a variety of options for the marble color and for the wire color as well. The green created a nice contrast against the yellow dyed aluminum wire. I really enjoyed the contrast of materials with the brightness of the marble compared to the different type of sheen that the wire had.