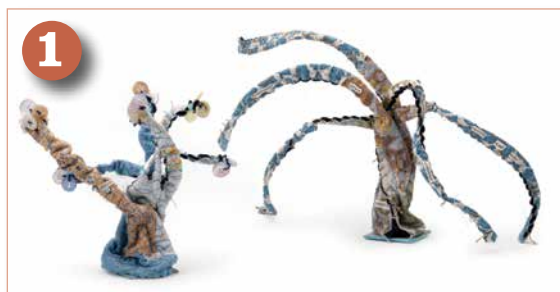


# three-dimensional art sculpture

## free mixed-media sculpture and paper mache ideas

*presented by* cloth paper scissors®



**1** funky fiber trees  
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**m**ake your mixed-media art stand out with this new eBook

from Cloth Paper Scissors Today: *Three-Dimensional Art Sculpture: Free Mixed-Media Sculpture and Paper Mache Ideas*.

We've brought together four techniques for three-dimensional art using paper-mache ideas, clay sculpture, fiber arts, and more.

First, create "Funky Fiber Trees" with Leilani Pierson. Leilani shows you how to twist, shape, sew, and decorate a fiber sculpture tree—or a whole grove—that is fun and fantastical.

Gail Walker's tutorial "Step into a Story" will have you creating 3-D mixed-media shoes with graphic papers, stitch, and paper mache art techniques.

In "Fanciful Sculptures," Elaine Thomas takes you on an adventure with painted clay sculptures incorporating a vintage element of some sort (such as jewelry, trinkets, paper, or the base structure) in each piece.

Up for more of a challenge? In "Wire and Clay Sculpture," Tory Brokenshire will show you how to create three-dimensional art forms with soldered wire, using paper clay techniques to make the head and torso. Finish up with paint and found objects.

*Three-Dimensional Art Sculpture: Free Mixed-Media Sculpture and Paper Mache Ideas* will teach you 3-D mixed-media techniques that you can use to create not only the projects described, but also adapt to your own style.

Warmly,

**Cate Prato**  
Online Editor,  
*Cloth Paper Scissors Today*

**cloth paper scissors**  
COLLAGE ARTISTIC  
MIXED-MEDIA DISCOVERY

## Three-dimensional Art Sculpture: Free Mixed-media Sculpture and Paper Mache Ideas

presented by

**Cloth Paper Scissors®**

ONLINE EDITOR **Cate Prato**

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Where mixed-media  
artists come to play



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# funky fiber trees

trees are a constant source of inspiration for me. When their green foliage erupts from sleeping branches in the spring, I am hushed into wonderment. Such fascinating forms of long, outstretched branches reaching for the bluest sky, or even dipping into nearby streams, captivate me. If I could, I would grow a whole garden of them from all over the world in my backyard. But while some dreams emerge wholly in reality, others must take a slightly different path to fruition. Over the years, I have contented myself with conceiving and creating a fiber garden of trees. For fiber art is one of the most romantic ways of dreaming.

## directions

1. Cut out a rectangular piece of felt. An approximate starting size is an  $8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 11''$  rectangle, but feel free to experiment with larger and smaller sizes—that is the beauty of playing. Lay either 1 large piece of fabric over it or small fabric scraps, enough to cover the entire piece.

**note:** If you use 1 large piece of fabric, you can apply any kind of surface design technique to it. I like to draw circles with permanent markers or paint pens.

2. Free-motion machine quilt the layers together with contrasting thread. Sew any pattern you desire. I like to sew random circles or zigzags.
3. Here is the fun part. Lay the quilted fabric flat and start cutting long strips into the top of the rectangle, cutting about  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way down. Do not cut the strips off; cut so they're long enough to simulate branches. I usually do not prepare ahead of time, but just cut randomly and see what emerges.







4. Fold the cut fabric in half, lengthwise. Using your chenille needle and embroidery floss, starting  $\frac{1}{2}$ " up from the non-cut side (the bottom), whipstitch the 2 sides together upward toward the branches. Stop stitching when you near the cut side of the branches.
5. When you get to the branches, whipstitch each individual branch closed, stopping right before the ends.

## tips

- Play around with different shapes. Cut your fabric into a triangle and then cut out branches.
- Sew on additional branches from other quilted scraps.
- Try using fabric paper and see what effects will emerge.
- Wrap the branches with embroidery threads or wire.
- Punch holes into the tips of the branches and add eyelets. Then tie threads through them.
- Insert a piece of florist wire into the branches if you want to make them bendable.

There are lots of possibilities.

6. After the branches have been stitched, start punching your needle into the branch, sewing small divots all the way around. This will cause the branch to pucker and form into more of a realistic piece. Do this with all of the branches.
7. Once the branches have been "puckered," create puckers in the trunk in the same manner. Do not pucker the trunk as tightly as the branches and only pucker halfway down the trunk.
8. Stand your tree up and play with the branches and see how it looks. If you want to do more hand stitching or sew some branches together to create a more unusual look, do this now.
9. Add shimmering paints or glitter glue to the tree now, if you like. Then add your tiny embellishments. Be sure the embellishments are lightweight, or they will weigh down the branches (unless you want this effect).
10. Add a word or two that seems to fit the shape of your tree or words that will draw out a unique thought or idea. Just tack them on with a dab of glue.

## MATERIALS

- Fabric scraps
- Craft felt
- Scissors
- Sewing machine and thread that contrasts with your fabrics
- Embroidery floss or crochet thread
- Chenille needle
- Tiny embellishments
- Tacky glue
- Cardboard or 2" Bazzill chips

### optional

- Paints
- Glitter glue
- Words
- Permanent markers

11. Set your tree on the table and push down on the base of the trunk to steady it. If you want more stability, glue a small piece of cardboard to its base. I use 2" painted Bazzill chips and secure them with tacky glue. This also serves as a nice place to write your title and name.

Create a handful of trees and display them around your home. There's nothing quite like having a funky, fibery garden of trees for inspiration. ●

[studiogypsy.com](http://studiogypsy.com)

# step into a story

## PAPIER-MÂCHÉ, GRAPHIC PAPERS, AND STITCH

BY gail walker

Adapted from  
CLOTH PAPER SCISSORS®  
March/April 2011

Without my sisters, I would be awash in a sea of serious, cursed as I am with a knack for good proportion and realism and a tendency to overthink, which doesn't always translate into engaging artistic expression.

My "Worried Shoes" came out of a challenge from my sister Nancy to make a pair of shoes based on a song by the same name, featured in the movie "Where the Wild Things Are."

I doodled up a concept and not much else happened until I messed up a papier-mâché egg and discovered I could make a toe box from the scraps. The "Smile Bunny Slippers" were inspired by that crazy bunny suit in "A Christmas Story."

No matter what style shoe you choose, this project is all about making the most of scraps, scraps, and stories. Use your shoes as a canvas to tell your very own story.





# directions

**note:** Follow these basic instructions to make both the bunny slippers and the Mary Janes. All shoe-specific steps are noted.

1. Tear some short narrow strips of newspaper. Dip the newspaper strips in the papier-mâché mixture, remove the excess “glue,” and wrap the papers around the plastic egg to create the toe boxes for the shoes. Apply 2 layers of paper, and then place the egg on a nonstick surface and allow it to dry overnight.

**note:** You’re not building up a heavy piece so there is no need to let the first layer dry before adding the second layer.

2. When dry, cut around the egg with the craft knife, end to end (the long way), and wiggle the 2 paper pieces off of the plastic egg. It’s ok to draw a guideline if you’re not confident



Figure 1



Figure 2

about making the halves even.

(Figure 1)

3. Draw a small oval on each egg half, starting at the middle of the egg and going down to the center bottom of the smaller side of the egg.
4. Cut the oval from each egg half and you have toe boxes for the shoes. If you’re making the bunny shoes, cut down the middle of 1 of the ovals to make the bunny ears. (Figure 2)
5. Draw, doodle, stamp, color, or collage to decorate your graphic papers, and work both sides to create maximum visual interest.
6. Using the pattern provided, trace and cut out 2 soles from the cardstock, and cut 4 soles from the decorated graphic paper.

**note:** Remember to flip the pattern for the second shoe or you’ll end up with two left feet.

7. Use the acrylic medium to adhere the graphic paper soles and any additional decorative paper elements to the cardstock soles. Coat both sides of the soles with acrylic medium and let dry on a nonstick surface.

## MATERIALS

**note:** I used a computer, a flatbed scanner, and a color inkjet printer to make graphic paper components for my shoes, but this technique can be accomplished just as easily with paper collage.

- Papier-mâché mixture (Use your recipe of choice.)
- Plastic egg (7" circumference)
- Newspaper
- Freezer paper or other nonstick surface
- Craft knife and mat
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Graphic papers (See “Make your own graphic papers,” or use decorative papers of choice.)
- Rubber stamps and ink pads
- Shoe patterns
- Cardstock or poster board
- Acrylic medium (I like Golden Artist Colors® Acrylic Glazing Liquid, gloss.)
- Paintbrushes: small foam brushes or inexpensive craft brushes
- Paper tape (I make my own.)
- Craft glue (I like Aleene’s® Original Tacky Glue®.)
- Acrylic sealer, clear matte
- Embellishments: glitter, eyelets and setter, brads, buttons, beads
- Embroidery needle and embroidery floss

### optional

- Colored pencils
- Sewing machine and thread

## MAKE YOUR OWN graphic papers

1. Arrange your fabric, personal elements, and/or decorative papers face down on a flatbed scanner.
2. Scan and save the images to your computer.
3. Use a photo-editing program to enhance, adjust, or change the colors. I scanned a favorite vintage silk scarf for the body of the "Worried Shoes."
4. Print out the new paper.

**note:** This is a great way to keep on using deteriorating fabrics. You can even reprint the image onto fabric instead of paper, if you like.



## assembly

**note:** If you want to add any free-motion stitching or embroidery to the shoes, do so now, before assembling the shoes.

9. Cut some 1/2" strips of lightweight paper, or use paper tape, and glue 1 side of the tape/paper to the inside of the papier-mâché toe box. Allow to dry. (Figure 3)
10. Cut slits along the other side of the tape/paper strip to make tabs. Glue the tabs to the sole, working gently from the inside of the shoe to make the egg shape match the sole shape. The toe box will be distorted somewhat as you make the toe box and sole fit together. Work slowly. This requires patience and persistence. When dry, trim any excess paper, if needed. (Figure 4)
11. For the Mary Janes: Repeat the taping for the shoe body, creating tabs and gluing as you did for the



figure 3

8. For the Mary Janes: Trace and cut the shoe side pattern pieces out of the decorated graphic paper. Remember to flip the pattern over to trace the piece for the second shoe. Also, trace and cut the heel portion of the sole pattern 4-5 times, per shoe, to make heels. Later, you will glue the heel shapes together to form the heels.

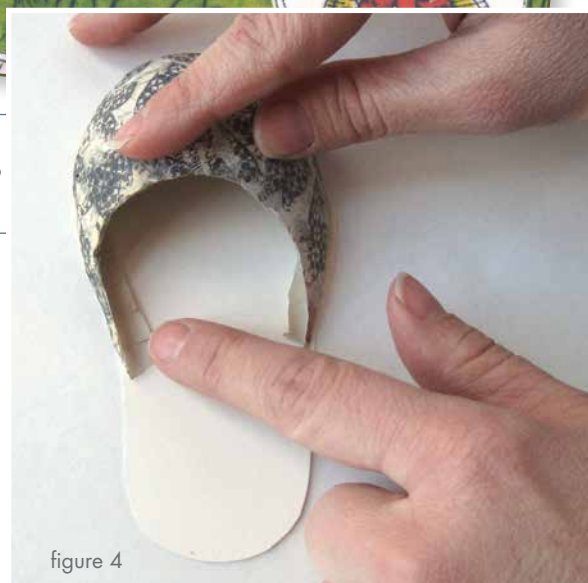


figure 4

toe box, and then attach the shoe body to the sole. Glue the stacks of cut heels to the soles now. Fold down the back flap and add an eyelet to hold it in place.

caution

Always use spray acrylic sealer in a well-ventilated space



## embellishment

Because I don't like parts to fall off when the shoes are handled, I use stitching with embroidery floss as more than just a decorative element. I recommend stitching any buttons or beads to the shoes, as opposed to gluing them.

You'll notice the bunny ears are attached with brads; this is for strength. I use acrylic medium to apply glitter.

Once the shoes are dry, spray them with a few coats of clear acrylic sealer.

The most important thing to remember is that this is your story to tell. Change it up and make it yours. I am already thinking of fairy princess party shoes, wingtips, hiking boots . . . stop me! ●

[onefinepencil.blogspot.com](http://onefinepencil.blogspot.com)



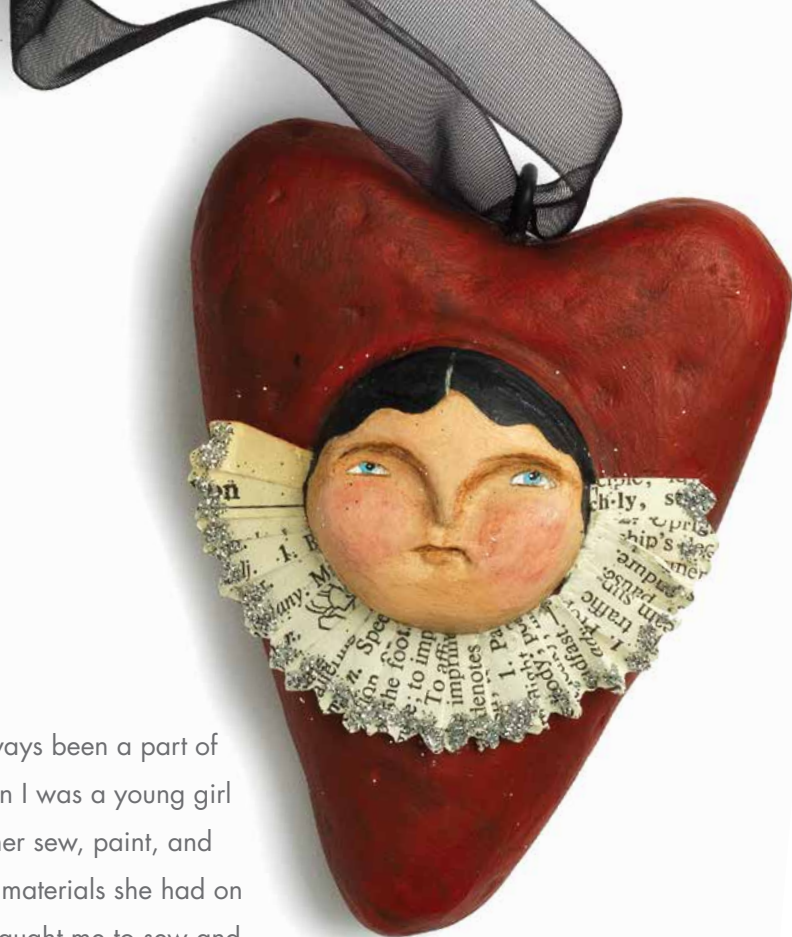
## tips

- If you prefer a pristine look, seal your graphics with acrylic sealer before you apply the medium.
- Save your paper scraps. You can cut out any bits of visual interest and decoupage them onto a larger piece to get the image or effect you want.



# fanciful sculptures

## CREATING WITH CLAY, PAINT, & PAPER



Crafts have always been a part of my life. When I was a young girl I watched my mother sew, paint, and create crafts using materials she had on hand. My mother taught me to sew and appreciate crafting as a sustainability tool (i.e. designing my clothes, pillowcases, etc.). I really didn't develop an artistic passion until 2000, shortly after my mom passed away. I guess creating was a way for me to stay connected with her. When I design it reminds me of times spent with my mom.

Initially, I focused primarily on creating cloth dolls and bears, but after a few years of sewing I wanted to try something new. I researched sculpting, began experimenting, and I have totally fallen in love with this art form.

When I get an idea or vision for a piece, I decide which materials to incorporate depending on the style and inspiration. My trademark style is to incorporate a vintage element of some sort (whether it be jewelry, trinkets, paper, or the base structure) in each piece. Once I design the sculpture, I wait until the piece

### MATERIALS

- Creative PaperClay®
- Aluminum foil
- 7/8" eye screw
- Vintage dictionary page
- Satin ribbon
- Folk Art Paints® (I used Licorice, Cardinal red, Skin tone, and turquoise.)
- Americana® paints (I used White Wash, Indian turquoise, and burnt umber.)
- Clear matte sealer
- Paintbrushes
- Rolling pin
- Sculpting tool for use with clay
- Scissors and pinking shears
- Glue
- Silver glitter

BY elaine thomas



speaks to me to visualize the face it “wants.”

The following instructions will lead you to make a piece similar to the heart shown on the opposite page. This particular Valentine’s ornament is a basic paper clay heart with a sculpted face. The face is framed by a folded paper collar. Hanging from a satin ribbon, it will make a whimsical addition to your Valentine décor.

## directions

1. Tear off a piece of aluminum foil, enough to ball up into a

3" × 3" × ½" disk. Form your foil into a heart shape.

2. Tear or cut off a piece of paper clay. Using the rolling pin, flatten the clay.
3. Cover your foil shape with clay, using your fingers to smooth out the clay. Set it aside to dry.
4. Tear or cut off a smaller piece of paper clay and roll it into a 1" ball. Flatten the clay slightly on one side, creating a flat bottom, but maintaining a rounded top.
5. Using your fingertips, push indents into the clay to create eye sockets.

**tip:** I usually dip my fingers in water to help maintain the clay’s elasticity.

6. Make a small impression in the center of the face, below the eye sockets, to create the nose.
7. Attach the smaller piece of clay to the center of the heart. Use water to help adhere the piece to the heart.
8. Using the sculpting tool, push the edges around the circle piece and then smooth out. Set aside to dry.
9. While you are waiting for the clay to dry, create the folded paper collar. Cut a strip from the dictionary page approximately ⅝" × 8". Use pinking shears to cut 1 long edge of the strip. Make tiny folds to form the strip into a half-circle shape that will fit around the lower half of the face (with the pinked edge along the outer edge); set aside.
10. When your piece is completely dry, paint it, using your desired colors. I like to use eye-catching colors that are festive and fanciful.
11. Use a burnt umber paint wash to antique your piece and then set it aside to dry.

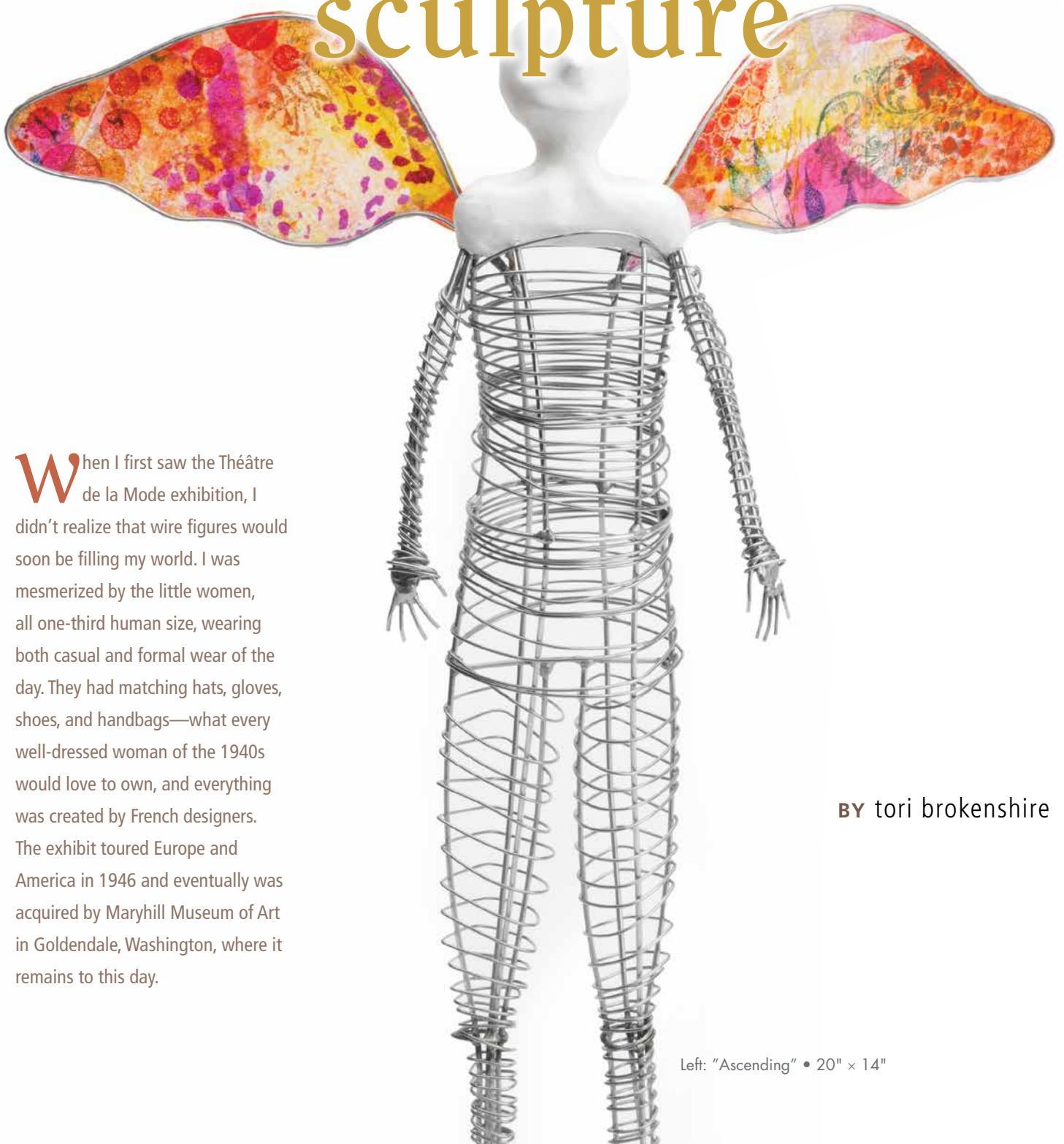


12. Once dry, use a strong glue to secure the paper medallion around the edges of the face. Allow to dry.
13. Add glitter along the edge of the collar, if desired.
14. Insert the eye screw into the top center of your heart, adding a bit of strong glue to secure the screw in place. Add the ribbon and your project is complete. ●

[artful-spirit.blogspot.com](http://artful-spirit.blogspot.com)



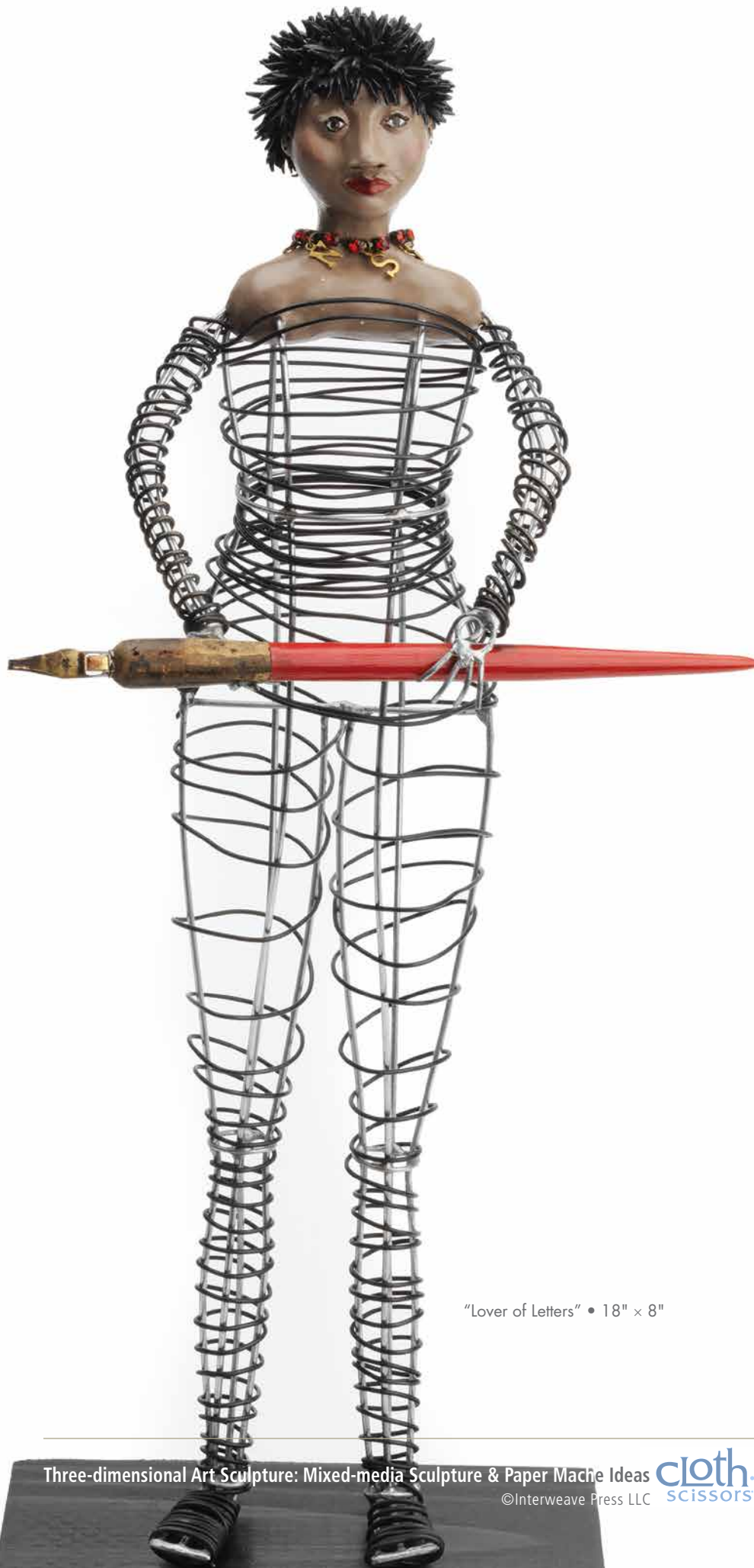
# wire & clay sculpture



When I first saw the Théâtre de la Mode exhibition, I didn't realize that wire figures would soon be filling my world. I was mesmerized by the little women, all one-third human size, wearing both casual and formal wear of the day. They had matching hats, gloves, shoes, and handbags—what every well-dressed woman of the 1940s would love to own, and everything was created by French designers. The exhibit toured Europe and America in 1946 and eventually was acquired by Maryhill Museum of Art in Goldendale, Washington, where it remains to this day.

BY tori brokenshire

Left: "Ascending" • 20" x 14"



"Lover of Letters" • 18" x 8"

## MATERIALS

- Creative PaperClay®
- Galvanized wire, 14- and 16-gauge
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Wire cutters, medium or large
- Pliers, round-nose and flat-nose
- Cardboard or mat board, to protect your work surface
- Clothespins or binder clips
- Soldering iron, 100-watt, 1/4" tip (I use a Weller® W100PG.)
- Solder, lead-free, 60/40
- Flux (I used Classic 100 gel flux.)
- Paintbrush, to apply the flux
- Damp sponge
- Aluminum foil
- Sculpey® clay, white, or Paperclay®
- Rolling pin or acrylic dowel
- Clay tools
- Base for mounting sculpture (I like to use wood blocks, boards, or found objects.)

### optional

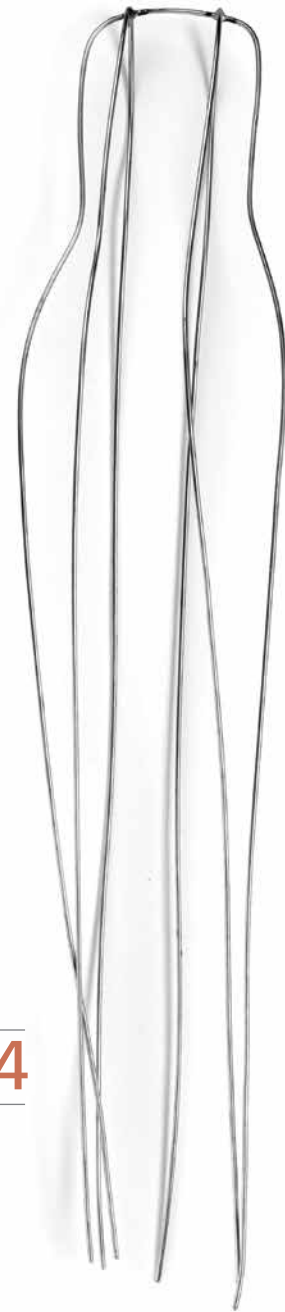
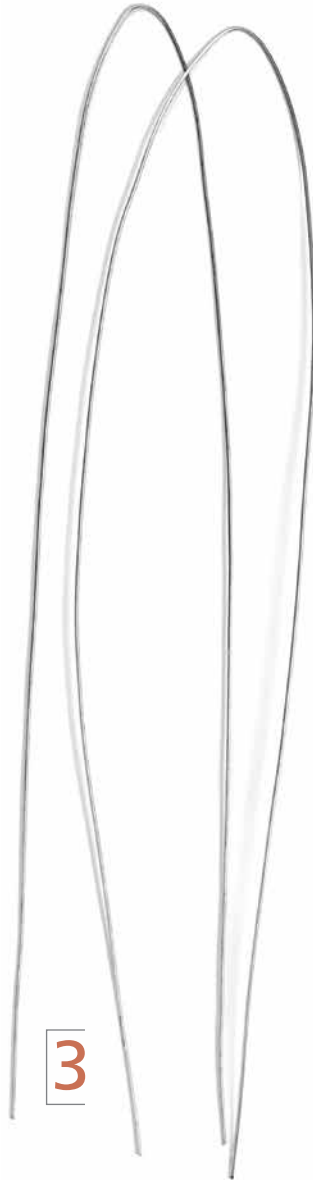
- Rebar wire

After viewing this exhibit, I was so excited to make my own sculptures that I rushed off to the nearest hardware store and bought what looked like the easiest wire to bend. It was just by luck that I was able to solder it at all. I had no real plan and just started to create. I learned a lot that day. Now some of my best work comes from not planning.

## directions

Your sculpture will be built in two parts, starting with the body and then the head. Your finished sculpture will be about 15"–17" tall.





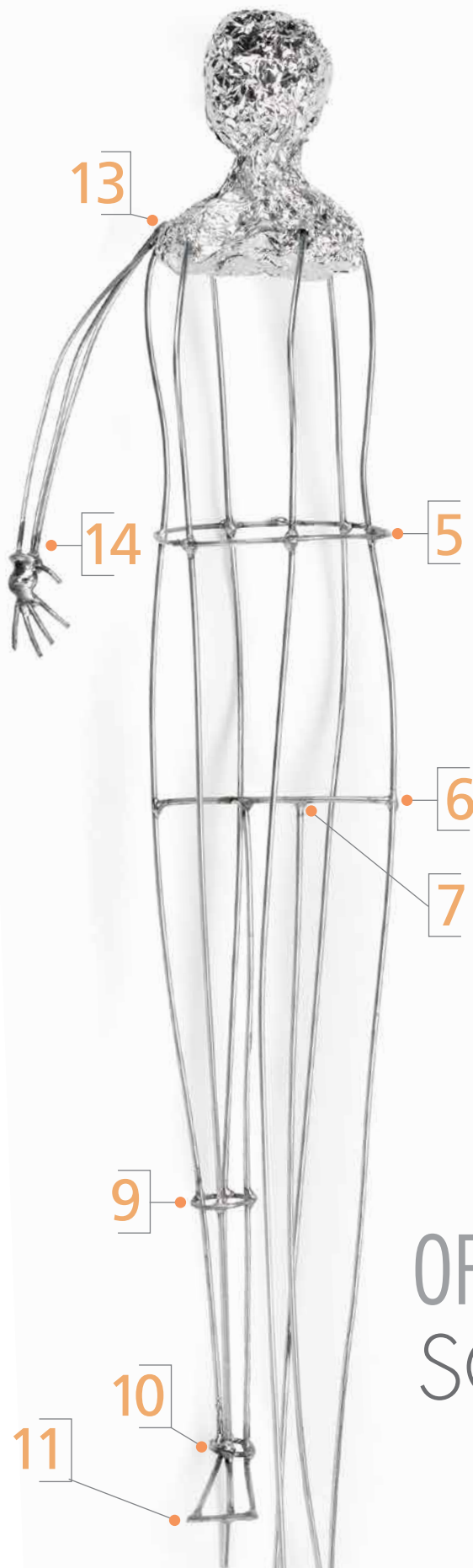
## creating the form

### THE TORSO

1. Cut 3 pieces of 14-gauge wire, each 36" long. Find the middle of the first piece and mark it with a pen or tape.
2. Measure 1" on either side of your mark and then bend both sides down to create a 90° angle. This piece will be the shoulders and the sides of the sculpture.
3. Bend the other 2 wires into soft curves, and then position them over the shoulder wire.
4. Work over the cardboard and, using a paintbrush, paint flux onto the areas where the wires cross along the shoulders. The solder will not hold without the flux. Solder the wires in place. Allow the wire to cool and then gently bend the wires, a little at a time, to get the figure or shape you want—thin and boyish, full figured, or other.

### cautions

- Work in a well-ventilated area.
- Never touch the tip of the soldering iron. Soldering irons run about 400°.
- Always return the soldering iron to its stand when not in use. Never just place it down on your work surface.
- Use the damp sponge to keep the tip of the iron clean while you're working.



# Anatomy

## OF A WIRE SCULPTURE



**tip:** Holding all the wires in place is tough; use clothespins or binder clips to hold them in position.

**note:** You need to have basic soldering skills to complete this project. If you are not familiar with soldering, there are many online resources for basic instructions.

**5.** Make a ring from the 16-gauge wire, long enough to go around the waist or just below it. Solder it on the outside of the 6 body wires.

**6.** Cut an inseam bar out of 14-gauge wire. This bar will be approximately 3" long and will be placed horizontally where the top of the leg and crotch start. Solder this bar to the side wires, the very first wire you bent.

## THE LEGS AND FEET

**7.** Cut two 12" pieces from the 14-gauge wire to form the inside of the legs. Solder the wires about  $\frac{1}{4}$ "– $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart. You now have 4 wires for each leg.

**8.** Using the round-nose pliers, make 4 rings with the 16-gauge wire. Make 2 of the rings a bit smaller than a dime (ankles) and the other 2 the size of a nickel (knees).

**9.** Slide the knee rings up around the outside of the leg wires and solder them in place.

**10.** Slide your ankle rings on next. They should be about 2" from the bottom of your wires or wherever you think the legs should end. Solder them in place.

**11.** Below each ankle ring, bend the 3 front wires forward at a 90° angle to

create a foot. Add a short length of wire across the front of the foot ( $\frac{1}{2}$ "– $\frac{3}{4}$ "), if desired, or leave it as is. The last back wire will be the anchor post to mount the sculpture to the base.

## THE ARMS AND HANDS

**12.** Cut 6 pieces from the 16-gauge wire, each approximately 6" long, for the arms. Solder 3 of them together at 1 end, and repeat with the other 3 wires.

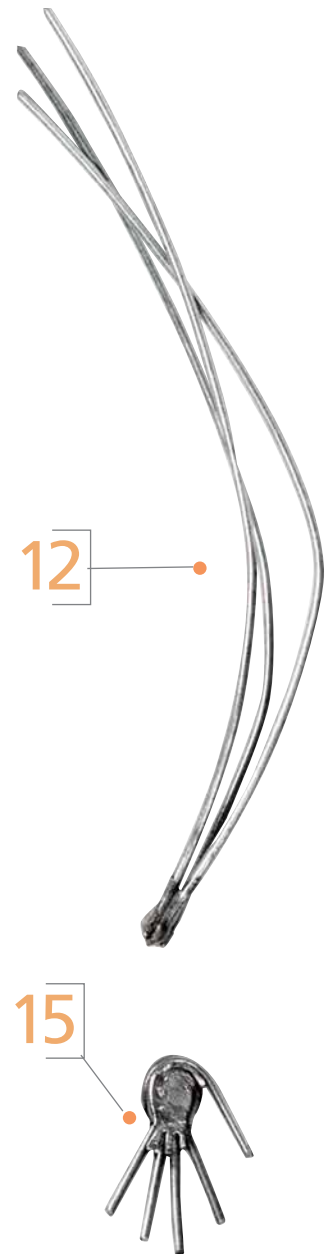
**13.** If you want the arm(s) to be bent at the elbow, bend the wires now so as not to disturb the weld after you attach the arms. Solder each arm  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge on the shoulder.

**14.** Make two  $\frac{3}{8}$ " rings out of 16-gauge wire for the wrists. Solder the rings in place about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the ends of the wire. Bend the wires to make a three-fingered hand, or cut off the excess wire and form a full hand from wire.

**15.** To make a full hand, use round-nose pliers and the 16-gauge wire to form a small spiral with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " tail. This will be the palm and thumb. Cut 4 more  $\frac{3}{4}$ " pieces of wire to make the fingers. Solder these together to form a hand. Trim the fingers with the wire cutters to the desired length. Repeat for the second hand and solder both hands to the wrists, making sure that the thumbs point in the correct direction.

## sculpting the head

When I sculpt the heads I never know who will emerge from the clay, male or



female, crafty or kind. Is this new person working for the circus or is it a celestial being? Whatever or whoever it is, I enjoy the adventure and pleasure of making each piece.

**1.** Cut a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " piece of 14-gauge wire for the post you will build your head on. Bend a small hook on 1 end and hook it under the shoulder wire. Hold the wire straight up and solder it in place. You are now ready to sculpt your head.

2. Make a ball of aluminum foil about 1" in diameter and place it on your neck post. If you start with the foil in the shape of a head and take some time forming it, you will find the sculpting process easier. Fill in the neck and chest with foil, trying to keep it somewhat smooth.
3. Condition your clay by kneading it and roll it out to approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick. Place the clay over the foil and smooth it out. A wet sponge will help with the smoothing. You now have the base to sculpt the face.
4. Add facial features as desired. Be very accurate with the features or not; it's up to you.
5. Following the manufacturer's direction, bake the polymer clay or dry the Paperclay.

## finishing

1. Cut a 3' piece of the galvanized 16-gauge wire or rebar wire and make a hook at 1 end. Connect the wire near the back shoulder-blade area.

2. Carefully wrap the wire around the body, moving down from the head as you wrap. Stop at the top of the hip and wrap each leg individually. Wrap the arms individually as well.
3. Mount the sculpture onto the base. I find 1 anchor wire on each foot is enough to hold my pieces in place, but if you feel more support is needed, solder additional posts to the bottoms of the feet.

Somewhere in the process of making a sculpture a bit of the creator slips in and gives the sculpture a spark of uniqueness and a story of its own. I hope you find the joy in meeting your new "person." ●

[coppercrowstudio.blogspot.com](http://coppercrowstudio.blogspot.com)

