



PARRISH ART MUSEUM

## Parrish Home Art Studios

### ALUMINUM FOIL FIGURES

Many of the sculptures in the museum's exhibition [\*Field of Dreams\*](#) are made of metal. Metal is an ideal material for outdoor sculpture because it is long-lasting and resilient to most weather conditions.

Some artists work directly with metal to make a sculpture, using saws, nuts, bolts and heat to shape their work. Others will make sculptures from different materials such as clay or wax, even an existing object, and then make a mold of this first form to be cast in metal. It can be quite a process!



Joel Shapiro (American, born 1941), *Untitled*, 2014, Bronze, 120 x 100 x 50 inches, Courtesy of the artist and Kasmin Gallery, NY

Let's take a closer look at Joel Shapiro's sculpture, *Untitled*, (pictured above) which you can see in person by visiting the Parrish Art Museum meadow. This sculpture is made up of bronze rectangular forms and certainly reminds us of a figure in motion. Shapiro achieves this by arranging simple rectangular shapes of varying sizes without rounding or bending the corners to accurately represent the human form. We, the viewer, don't need this sculpture to be an exact representation of a person to know this sculpture is an abstracted human figure in motion!

Let's Create!

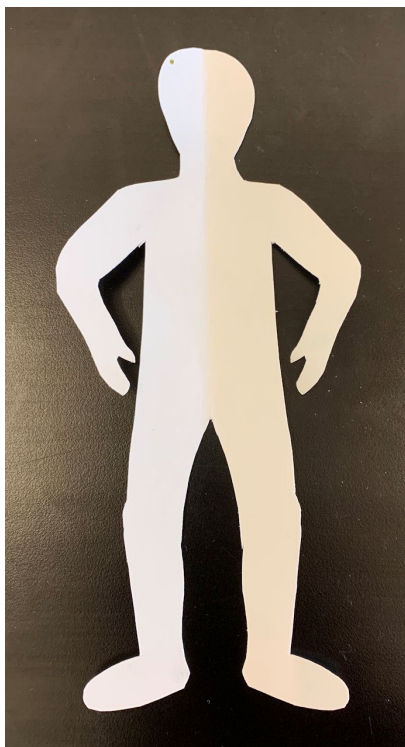
While we might not be able to weld large pieces of bronze at home, we can use aluminum foil to create our own figurative and abstracted metal figures! Below are 2 examples of different techniques for creating foil sculptures. Try them both!

Materials:

Aluminum foil

Scissors

Cardboard, card stock or heavy paper.



#### STEP 1

For our first technique, draw a paper template of the figure you want for your sculpture. Your art doesn't have to represent a person, you can make an animal, or whatever you choose! Cut out your paper template.

#### STEP 2

Lay your paper figure onto a sheet of foil. Focus on where the head, arms, torso and legs are and snip the sides of the foil near those areas, as the image to the right shows.



#### STEP 3

Gently begin to fold the foil around the paper shape, pinching and shaping the foil to take the shape of your figure. If the foil tears, no problem! Add more foil as a patch, or to "fatten" up your figure!

