



*Indicate construction in the towers of Simon Rodia, Watts, California*

# WIRE SCULPTURE

and other three-dimensional construction

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To Georgia and my many students who helped develop these ideas



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1. "Trumpeters of Jericho" by Luise Kalsh is done in bronze. Courtesy American Craftsmen's Council, New York.

2. Polished liquid metal-over-wire figure for crucifixion is done by the author.

3. "Messenger of the Gods" by Edward Merrifield is built of liquid metal over wire and given an acrylic treatment for permanent outdoor installation. Courtesy Orlando Gallery, Encino, California and Dr. M. J. de Carvalho.

4. "Stargazer" is liquid metal over wire, left in natural aluminum color, and is by the author.

5. A strong wire armature is essential for a good liquid metal figure. Here 12 gauge wire is twisted for added strength.

6. Liquid metal being applied with a palette knife to a heavy screen armature. Successive layers will build up to a very workable surface.

7. Aluminum figures can be filed and buffed to a fine luster. Jefferson High School, Los Angeles, California. (Los Angeles City Schools)

8. Hurdler is in liquid metal over wire armature. Lutheran High School, Los Angeles, California.



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## MATERIALS

Wire employed in this process should be as heavy as possible for the size of the work, and it should be bent and formed into a stable armature. The liquid metal that will be applied will add rigidity, but is not a very strong binding agent, and can easily be broken if joints are not secured in the basic shape. Unless the finished figure is to be painted, the wire should be of steel or aluminum so it will match the color of the plastic additive material.

Liquid metal is a very fine material to use for this technique. Body putty, obtained at automotive shops and various plastic resins and epoxies that can be filed and sanded are also usable. Correct solvents for all materials should be readily available, primarily for immediate clean-up use.

## PROCEDURES

Using a good strong wire, form the simple basic shape and secure joints so the form is quite rigid. This can be done by tying the joining and crossing wires with finer wire or by twisting the armature wire around itself wherever possible to make the shape firm. The stronger this form is, the stronger will be the finished work. Since no changes in shape or attitude can be made later without breaking



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