



CELEBRATING ALLAN HOUSER

AN OKLAHOMA PERSPECTIVE



**Allan Houser at the Capitol:
A Legacy in Bronze**
Oklahoma State Capitol,
Oklahoma City
January 15 - December 15, 2014

In *Spirit of the Wind*, Allan Houser interpreted the Oklahoma wind by using organic, two-dimensional shapes made of bronze, assembling them to create an expressive three-dimensional form. The sculpture utilizes both positive and negative space.



Activity

Supplies:

- 2 Wire coat hangers
- Block of wood, approx. 4x4x1
- 2 knee-high hose or 2 legs of pantyhose
- Wire cutter or heavy-duty pliers (adult supervision suggested)
- Nail and hammer (or drill) (adult supervision suggested)
- Scissors
- 2 wire ties from a loaf of bread
- Latex or acrylic paint

1. Visit the Capitol and see *Spirit of the Wind*. Walk around the sculpture and view it from various angles. Examine the shape, form, and negative space. Follow the outlines of the sculpture with your eyes.
2. Return to your art-making space and gather your materials.
3. With adult supervision, use hammer and nail to create two holes in opposite corners of the block of wood. Place the holes between the outermost corner and center of the block.
4. With adult supervision, use wire cutters or heavy-duty pliers to cut off the hook of two wire coat hangers. Bend the wire to straighten it out a little before starting.
5. Insert both ends of one wire into one of the holes in the wood. Do the same with the other wire and hole.
6. Now bend and twist the hanger wire to create forms that are similar to the shapes you saw earlier. Work with the wire to create the outline of the shapes. Carefully adjust the two shapes to interact with each other. They are no longer flat, two-dimensional shapes. They are now three-dimensional sculptural forms that can be adjusted to create negative space.
7. Carefully pull one hose over the top of one wire, keeping the toe seam aligned with the wire. Continue to work the hose down over the wire, down to the wooden block. Carefully adjust the wire inside, as desired.
8. When satisfied with the shape and tightness of the hose, tie the hose off at the base with a wire tie and trim off the excess hose from the bottom, between the tie and wooden block.
9. Repeat steps 7 and 8 with the other hose and wire.
10. The surface may be covered using two coats of latex or acrylic paint. Experiment with a variety of finishes. Metallic paint works great.