

LEARNING RESOURCE



Household Bronze Sculptures

Artists have used bronze to cast sculptures for thousands of years. The material is highly valued for its strength, rich colour, and its ability to capture very fine details when cast.

In this project you will create your own household bronze sculpture using recycled objects and metallic paint. You will first create an unusual assemblage of everyday, unwanted objects and then transform it into an abstract sculpture that appears solid, weighty and valuable through the application of metallic paint.

Spray paint works effectively for this project as it creates a unified surface and adheres to most materials. If working with younger adults or children, it is advisable instead to use recycled objects with porous surfaces such as recycled cardboard, paper and wood (instead of non-porous plastic or metal), and then use poster paint or enamel paint in place of spray paint.

What will I need for this project?

Range of unwanted objects or objects from the recycling bin

Old sheet or newspaper to work on

Scissors

Metallic spray paint, enamel paint or poster paint

Facemask and covering for clothes (if using spray paint)

Glue gun or PVA glue

String, wire or tape (optional joining materials instead of glue)

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Step one:

Gather your materials together and collect a range of unwanted objects or objects from the recycling bin. Look for objects of different shapes, sizes, and textures.



Step two:

Think about how you could combine these objects together in unexpected ways to create something new. What do the objects look like if placed at different angles?



Step three:

Join your objects together by wrapping them, taping them, using wire or gluing them together. Make sure that your assemblage is firm and dry before moving onto the next step.



Step four:

Paint your assemblage using metallic paint. If using spray paint, make sure that you do this outside on a protective surface, and use old clothes and a facemask to protect yourself from the spray paint fumes.



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Ways to develop your sculptures further:

- Once the paint is fully dry, consider how to display your sculpture. How does it appear from different angles? How does it stand up?
- A lot of public sculptures and statues cast from bronze are displayed on plinths. You may want to consider creating a plinth for your own sculpture using a cardboard box or piece of wood. How would this change the appearance of your sculpture?

