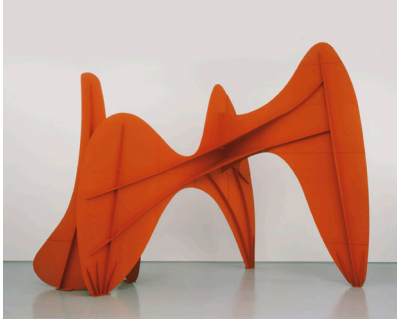


Exploring Subtractive/Additive Processes and Making Freestanding Sculptures

Time: 1 hour

Difficulty level: Low

Messy level: Low



Alexander Calder, *La Grande Vitesse (High Speed)* (1:5 intermediate maquette), 1969, sheet metal, bolts, and paint, 102 x 135 x 93 in. (260 x 343 x 237 cm), Calder Foundation, New York. © 2020 Calder Foundation, New York / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

To view hi-res images from the exhibition *Calder-Picasso*, visit the [MFAH website](#).

Inspired by the art of Alexander Calder, this activity will guide you in transforming a sheet of aluminum into a freestanding sculpture using both subtractive and additive processes.

Investigate the Work of Art!

1. When referencing sculpture, “subtractive” means to take away or remove material, and “additive” means to add material. Given that this work of art started out as sheets of metal, what sections do you think were created using a subtractive process?
2. What sections were created using the additive process?
3. Try to visualize this sculpture without paint. How does the subject matter change in each case?

Let's Make Some Art! Gather These Art Materials

- 36 g art metal foil sheets
- Scissors
- Felt square or smooth hand towel
- Pencil (not mechanical)
- Sharpie paint markers
- Paint (acrylic)
- Assortment of paintbrushes
- Water cup
- Plate for paint

To purchase some of the recommended art materials, visit [dickblick.com](#).

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Step-by-Step Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home with a hard surface to work on.
2. Gather supplies.
3. Think about what you want your sculpture to look like. Do you want it to appear more figurative like Picasso's (based on shape) or more like Calder's (based on color). These are just guidelines—feel free to explore other ideas.
4. Using a pencil, draw the outline of your shape onto the aluminum.
5. Use your pencil to draw/press details into the aluminum.
6. The side with raised lines is the front of your artwork. Paint the entire front white.
7. Allow to dry.
8. Use a combination of Sharpie markers and acrylic paint to paint all details.
9. Allow to dry.
10. Cut out the shape.
11. Bend the aluminum into the desired form. The goal is for it to stand on its own.

Calder-Picasso is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in partnership with the Calder Foundation, New York; Musée National Picasso-Paris (MNPP); and the Fundación Almine y Bernard Ruiz-Picasso para el Arte (FABA).



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