



Make art
with the Art Gallery of New South Wales



Do you love to make things?



Artists love to create.

They make drawings, prints, paintings, sculptures and other things for us to look at. Some artists are fascinated by the shape of the human figure, and the different poses it can make.

Look at these figure sculptures from the Art Gallery of New South Wales, become an artist and create your own fabulous foil figure.



Foil figures

Some artists like to create sculptures of figures in different postures – balancing, leaning, sitting or standing on one leg. They use different materials such as clay and bronze and often use people to model for them. How long could you stand in one of these poses?



Get creative

opposite from left:
 Juan Muñoz *Piggy back* (right) 1996
 bronze
 Art Gallery of New South Wales, Mervyn Horton
 Bequest Fund 1997
 © Juan Muñoz Estate

Bertram MacKenna *Sappho* c1909
 bronze
 New South Wales, bequest of Mrs JR McGregor 1944

above from left:
 Sir George Frampton *Peter Pan* 1912
 bronze
 Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1914

Edgar Degas *Dancer looking at the sole of her right foot* 1900–10 (cast 1919–21)
 bronze
 Art Gallery of New South Wales, bequest of Paul Haefliger 1982

cover:
 Geoffrey Ricardo *Running figure* 1994
 bronze
 Art Gallery of New South Wales, bequest of Ian Whalland 1997
 © Geoffrey Ricardo
 Photos: AGNSW

Make your own foil figures influenced by these figure sculptures.
Remember, you are the artist so you can decide on the pose, the shapes, what your figure will be doing and what they look like.

You will need:

- Scissors
- Chenille stems (pipe cleaners)
- Aluminium foil (the type you use for cooking)
- Sticky tape
- Paper plate
- Your imagination!



What to do



1

Take two chenille stems and lay them beside each other. Twist the ends together, overlapping them by about 3cm. Then coil and twist the overlapping part to make a loop for the head shape.



2

Twist two more chenille stems together. Then bend them over the back of the neck, bringing them down at the front.



3

Twist them together to form a body and legs. Bend the arm stems back towards the body and twist. Leave a round loop at the end to make a hand, like the arm on the right in this photo.



4

Twist another chenille stem up one leg and down the other to strengthen them and bend the ends to make feet. Use small strips of foil to gradually start covering your figure.



5

Cover the whole body with foil and wrap as tightly as you can (tip: small strips work best). You can hold the strips in place with sticky tape if necessary.



6

Cover the paper plate in foil to make a base. Pose your figure and add extra foil to make clothes, hair or props. Sticky tape it to the base. You could make a group of figures, or make animal sculptures.