



## LESSON PLAN #35



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# CREATE A CAT

with AMACO® Sculptamold® and WireForm® Metal Mesh

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### OBJECTIVE

- Understand form and color of identifying features of animals, like this cat.
- Create an animal from Sculptamold® with armature which has features typical of that animal. This project is suitable for grades 4-6.

### NATIONAL VISUAL ART STANDARDS

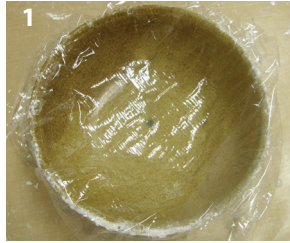
1. Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and culture.
2. Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes.
3. Using knowledge of structures and functions.
4. Choosing a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas.
5. Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics of artwork.
6. Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

### MATERIALS & TOOLS

- AMACO® WireForm® Expandable Metal Mesh – Aluminum (Diamond Mesh)
- AMACO® Sculptamold®
- String – 2' (thin)
- Acrylic paints in orange, black, white and green
- Gesso
- Wooden toothpick broken in half
- Aluminum foil
- Medium size cereal bowl
- Glue
- Water
- Measuring cup
- One quart plastic zipper bag
- Craft sticks or tongue depressors
- Cling wrap
- Paint brushes
- Latex gloves (optional)
- Scissors
- Paper to protect your work surface

## INSTRUCTIONS

**1.** Cut two pieces of WireForm® wire mesh 2" x 6" each. Line the inside of the cereal bowl with cling wrap. Make sure the cling wrap extends over the edges of the bowl by a few inches (see photo #1).



**2.** For each cat, mix 2 cups of Sculptamold® (firmly packed) with 1.25 cups of water in the zipper bag. Mix thoroughly (see photo #2). This mix differs from the package to allow more working time and smoother results.



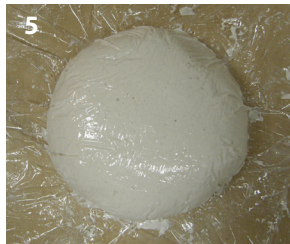
**3.** Pour all but 1/3 cup of the Sculptamold® mix into the lined cereal bowl and push it into shape to fill the bowl (see photo #3).



**4.** Bend both pieces of the wire mesh into a curved shape, then push them one at a time into the Sculptamold® to form a cross shape. The wire mesh will give it stability as it dries (see photo #4).



**5.** Wait 3-4 minutes then flip bowl upside down on aluminum foil sheet so molded shape pops out of the bowl (see photo #5). Carefully remove cling wrap. Use craft stick to smooth the Sculptamold®.



**6.** Push the two toothpick halves into the upper sides of the head to mark where the ears will go (see photo #6a).



Using 3/4 of the remaining quantity of Sculptamold®, form two ears and affix them to the sides of the head, covering the toothpicks (see photo #6b)



**7.** Place the remaining Sculptamold® in the middle of the face and shape to form the nose. Do not press too hard or you might deform the face. Use a clean craft stick to make small dents for the eyes, mouth, and whiskers (see photo #7).



Set piece aside until completely dry. To dry faster: Place on a cookie sheet and bake in oven for two to three hours at 190°F.

**8.** If the cat sounds hollow when you knock it with your knuckles, it is completely dry and ready to paint



Paint the cat with a coat of gesso to seal it and to provide a good base for your paint.

Paint the cat's face with an orange acrylic paint and, when dry, add black markings and a black nose. Use white paint for the eyes, then paint the irises of the eyes green with black vertical stripes for the pupils.

Cut six pieces of thin string, add some glue to the dents that you made for the whiskers then adhere the string to make the whiskers.

You can adapt this project to make all kinds of animals. Many animals can be designed using a circular shape then adding ears and other distinguishing marks. This is a good project for children to learn what characteristics uniquely identify a particular animal when compared to others. Ask them what features a cat has that make it recognizable as a cat rather than a dog or a pig.



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