

# SECOND SATURDAYS FROM HOME: FOIL FIGURES

A brand new work of art has landed at the sculpture park! Help us welcome Nicole Eisenman's *Man at the Center of Men* by creating a foil-tastic work of art at home. We'll use foil and plaster to explore the idea of "action" in art making.



## Materials:

- Plaster
- Foil
- Sharpie
- Water
- Scissors

## Overview:

We'll be creating figures out of foil and plaster. The figures can be human, animal, or imaginary. We will explore what textures are possible with our materials. Eisenman's sculptures are always *doing* something, whether sitting or standing or viewing their own reflection in trash can lids! **While creating, think about what your sculpture is doing.**

While *Man at the Center of Men* was sculpted from steel and bronze, Eisenman often uses plaster or foam-like textures in her work. The viewer might not be able to tell the sculpture was made from metal by looking at it because the texture makes them think otherwise!

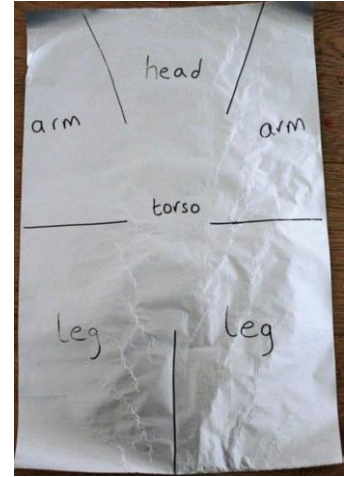
## Plaster Warning:

Work in a well-ventilated area. Plaster is dusty, and it is important to protect yourself against breathing it in. Keep your hands away from your face. Do not dispose of plaster down the sink. Allow the plaster to sink to the bottom of the bowl. Once the plaster has hardened, carefully pour plaster free water down the drain or outside and throw remaining plaster in the garbage.

## HOW-TO:

**Find a step-by-step how-to video by museum educator Emma Garcia on our CREATE page on our website at [TheContemporaryAustin.org](http://TheContemporaryAustin.org)**

1. Start by drawing the diagram on the right on your sheet of foil. Whether you're creating a person or animal, this chart will help you create a basic form.
2. Cut slits along the lines you have drawn.
3. Gently crumple each foil area to create body parts.
4. If you want to make your figure larger, add more foil! Gently crumple additional pieces of foil around each part of your sculpture.
5. Once you have finished adding your foil, decide on the position of your figure. What is your figure doing? Move the arms, legs and head to be in the exact posture you want your figure to stay in.
6. What position have you decided to create your foil figure in? What does this say about what they are doing or thinking?
7. When you're ready to add plaster, grab yourself a bowl of water.
8. Cut strips of plaster. For this project, thin strips about an inch thick work the best!
9. Dip a plaster strip completely into the water. As you pull it out, wipe it on the edge of your bowl. This will keep your project from having too much water and getting soggy.
10. Cover your foil sculpture in plaster. Each strip of plaster should overlap the previous strip a bit to ensure the plaster is well attached and secure. As you add each piece, smooth it out with your finger to blend the plaster strips together.
11. When your figure is covered, think about how you can add extra foil or plaster to create texture, accessories, or other details. Experiment!
12. Allow your project to dry for 24 hours. When it is completely dry, you can add color with paint or marker if you wish.



### Using Alternate Supplies:

If you wanted to create a sculpture but did not have plaster, you could start with foil and then cover it with paper mache. Paper mache is an easy substitute for plaster!

Here is a **recipe for paper mache paste**:

1. Mix one-part flour with two-parts water.
2. Mix until it's smooth.
3. Your paste should be the texture of a thick soup. If it feels too watery, add more flour. If it feels too thick, add water.
4. Store the mixture in the refrigerator until you're ready to use it.
5. Rip or cut strips of paper about an inch thick, then go grab your paste mixture. Dip a strip of paper into your paste. Apply it to your foil sculpture. Keep adding paper strips to create a thick layer. Let dry.

**We can't wait to see your creations!** Post a picture and tag us [@contemporaryATX](https://www.instagram.com/contemporaryATX) or use the hashtag [#SecondSaturdaysAtHome](https://www.instagram.com/SecondSaturdaysAtHome) so we can see your amazing artwork!

**Learn more about the artwork that inspired this project, Nicole Eisenman's *Man at the Center of Men*, on your next visit to Laguna Gloria or at [TheContemporaryAustin.org](http://TheContemporaryAustin.org)!**