# Neuberger Museum of Art

### **Build a Reflective Sculpture**

Inspired by artist John Chamberlain

### ΑCTIVITY

Students create 3D sculptures that explore texture, color, pattern, balance, and form. As the sculptures are created, they will observe how aluminum foil, a reflective material, interacts with light and color.

#### **MATERIALS:**

- Two (2) pieces of Aluminum Foil (8" x 10")
- Permanent Markers
   Three (3) different colors + One (1) black
   (Tip: Crayola is okay but will likely smudge)
- Tools for texture (ex: coins, fork, back of pen)

#### **STEPS:**

- Divide both pieces of foil with black lines. You can create as many lines as you would like. You can draw lines across the longest section or the shortest; these lines will become the fold lines to make your sculpture stand.
- 2. On the first piece of foil (you can use either the dull side of the foil or the shiny side) use markers to color in the sections.

Think about pattern, shapes and color.







## neu Build a Reflective Sculpture

 On the second piece of foil, use your texture tools to experiment with different types of textures on each section. Try rubbing, imprinting, and scraping.

Can you find other things in your house that have a texture that would be fun to use?







- 4. Next, fold along the black lines on both pieces of foil.
- Then pinch together the open seams gently. This will form two tubes. Adjust them so that they stand.
- 6. Place both of the tubes close to one another if one needs the other for support. If they can each stand on their own, try placing them further away from each other. Look at the space between and around the tubes. You can pinch them together at the top, or maybe you want to choose to leave them separate. It's up to you to decide!
- 7. Finally, look closely at the artwork you created.
  How do the forms interact?
  How does one change the way the other looks?
  Can you see yourself in them?
- 8. Ask an adult to share you creations with us on social media at #NEUtoDoKids!







## neu About the Artist

What happens when you take an object and then crumble it up? You shift the density and redistribute the color and shadows.

John Chamberlain explored these ideas by taking pieces of a solid object, a car for example, and then manipulating it into another version of itself through deconstruction and reconstruction.

John Angus Chamberlain (American, 1927–2011) was one of the most influential three-dimensional Abstract Expressionist artists of the twentieth century. He was most recognized for his industrial steel and aluminum sculptures that were made from salvaged parts of old automobiles.

Throughout his lifetime, Chamberlain proved that sculpture could be made from anything. He worked with materials such as plexiglass, foam, paper, and even aluminum foil. He believed that if the artist got the scale correct, the size never mattered, and it was about how each part fit together to form the whole.

During the final years of his career, Chamberlain explored the pliability of aluminum through his *Foil Adventures*. These works were large scale depictions of smaller scale works from earlier in his career some standing over sixteen feet tall. These works are representational of movement, like a feeling of dance.



In finding your place in sculpture, you need to find the material that offers you just the right resistance. As it turns out, car metal offers me the correct resistance so that I can make a form —not overform it or underform it.

— John Chamberlain