



**armature:** A base that the sculptor uses to build up the sculpture in plaster, clay, or other materials. Armatures are generally made with a wrapped wire. For very large work, armatures are created with rigid, durable materials. They are used for support when sculpting a figure or standing animal.

**assemblage:** Creating sculpture by combining many elements—especially found objects—into a complete work of art. The work is "assembled" from many parts.

**bisque or bisque fire:** The first fire of ceramic clay. Bisque ware is generally unpainted clay that has been fired once.

**bronze:** An alloy of copper and tin. It is a strong, hard metal used in cast sculpture.

**cast:** To reproduce a piece of sculpture by means of a mold. The original piece is generally made of a less durable material than the cast.

**ceramics:** The art of making objects with clay and firing them in a kiln.

**free standing:** Sculpture surrounded on all sides by space.

**frieze:** A band of relief sculpture attached to a wall.

**maquette:** A small model usually in wax or clay of a larger sculpture work. The maquette is used to propose a large or monumental work to the client for approval before the major work is started.

**mobile:** A balanced arrangement of thin rods or stiff wires with objects suspended from them. The entire sculpture hangs from a filament and is moved by air currents. The mobile was named by its inventor, sculptor Alexander Calder. The "stabile," also invented by Calder, is rigid and stationary rather than flexible and suspended.

**mold:** A hollow or negative container that gives its form to a substance poured into it. The substance, such as bronze, is allowed to harden to create a sculpture. A typical mold is made by coating an original clay or wax sculpture with plaster and removing the dry plaster piece. The mold is put back together and a substance is poured into the whole mold. Metal casting is done by sand casting. There is a negative mold and a positive core of foundry sand allowing the final cast to be hollow.

**negative space:** The empty space in and around an object that helps define the sculpture.

**patina:** A film or incrustation, usually green, that forms on copper and bronze after a certain amount of weathering and time. It is usually a result of the oxidation of the copper.

**pop art:** Forms and themes from mass culture. Pop artists look at everyday objects and images as art.

**positive space:** The space a form occupies in an artwork. The actual material of the sculpture

**relief:** A sculpture in which the forms project from a flat background. A relief is usually attached to the wall of a building.

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Reference: Mayer, Ralph. *A Dictionary of Art Terms and Techniques*. NY: Thomas Crowell Co., 1969.