

Relief in Clay Mold-Making and Casting

Bas Relief or Low Relief

Relief sculpture comes in varying degrees of dimensionality.

These images are of the lowest for relief called bas relief or low relief.

Bas relief is a lot like a drawing or a deep engraving.



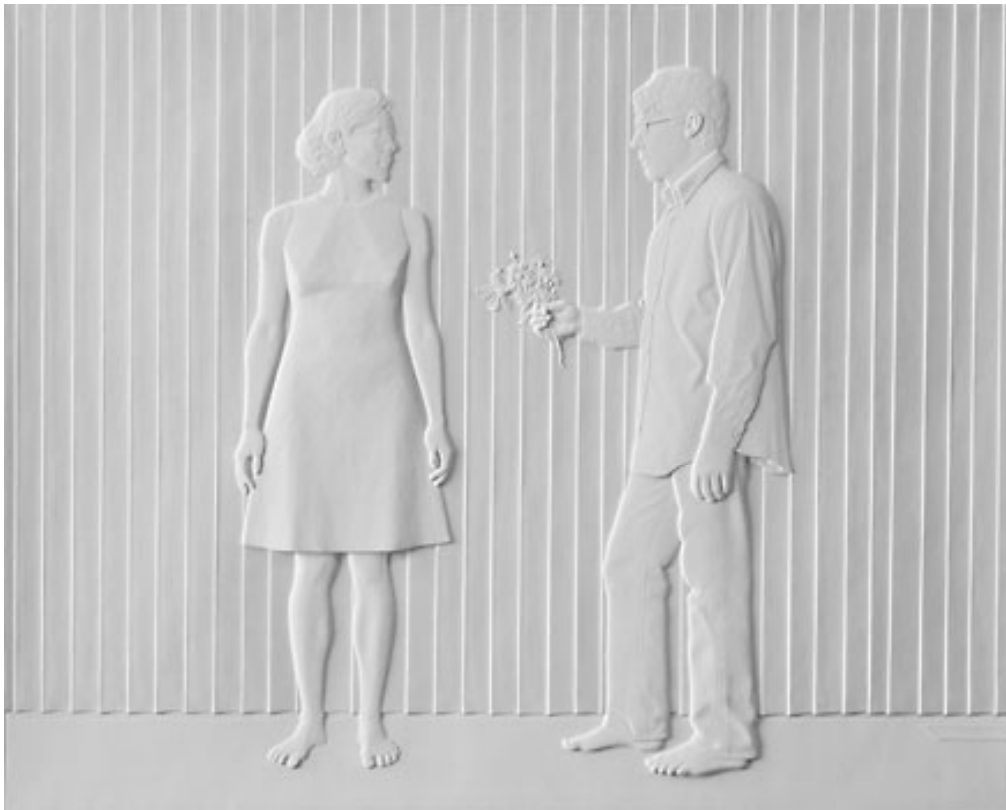


Historically, relief sculpture has been used to decorate the facades and friezes of buildings.

Pictured above are (left) Demeter and Korymbos Exalting the Flower and (right) The Three Graces.

In these contemporary reliefs, the shadow reveals the dimensional form. Even though the works are White, the images have a great deal of value.

Below: Charles Ray, Above Right: Longwell
Below Right: Juana Alicia



Relief Sculpture and Cast Reliefs are practical for public art applications.

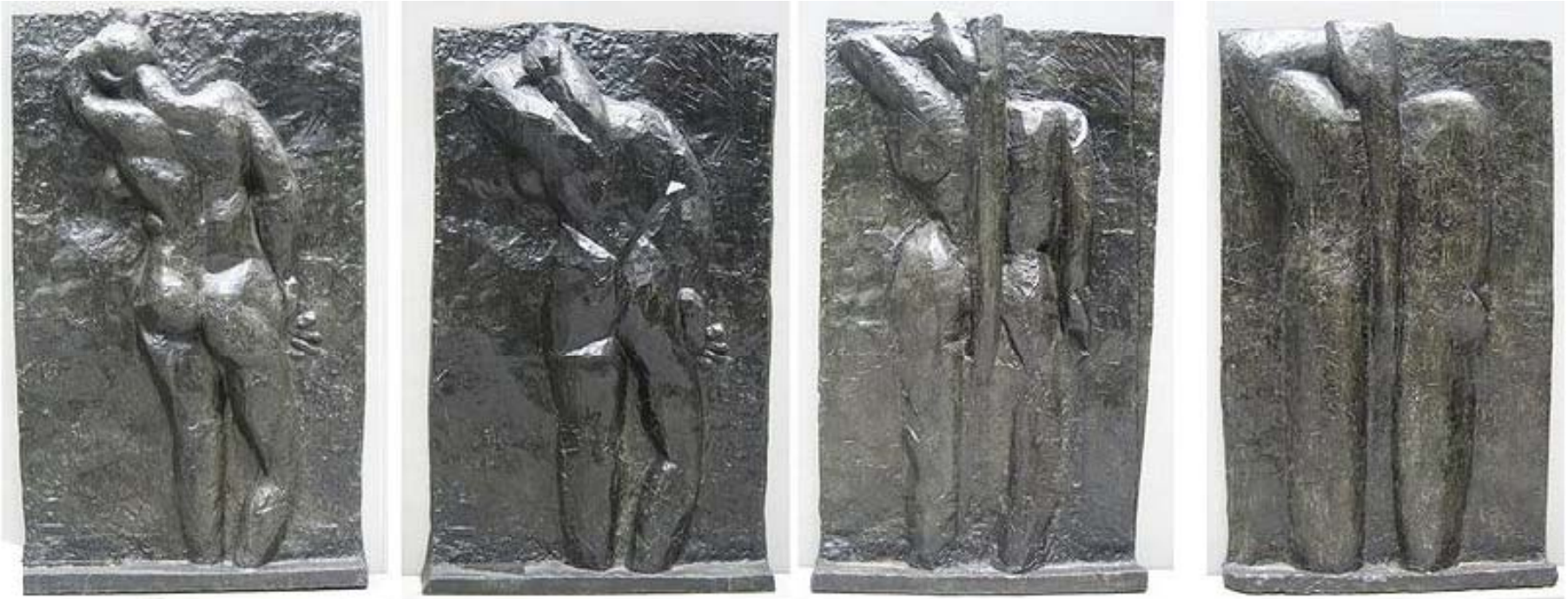
The bas relief fern design has been molded and cast in concrete. It will require little care and does not have parts that could break off.



This garden sculpture is carved stone



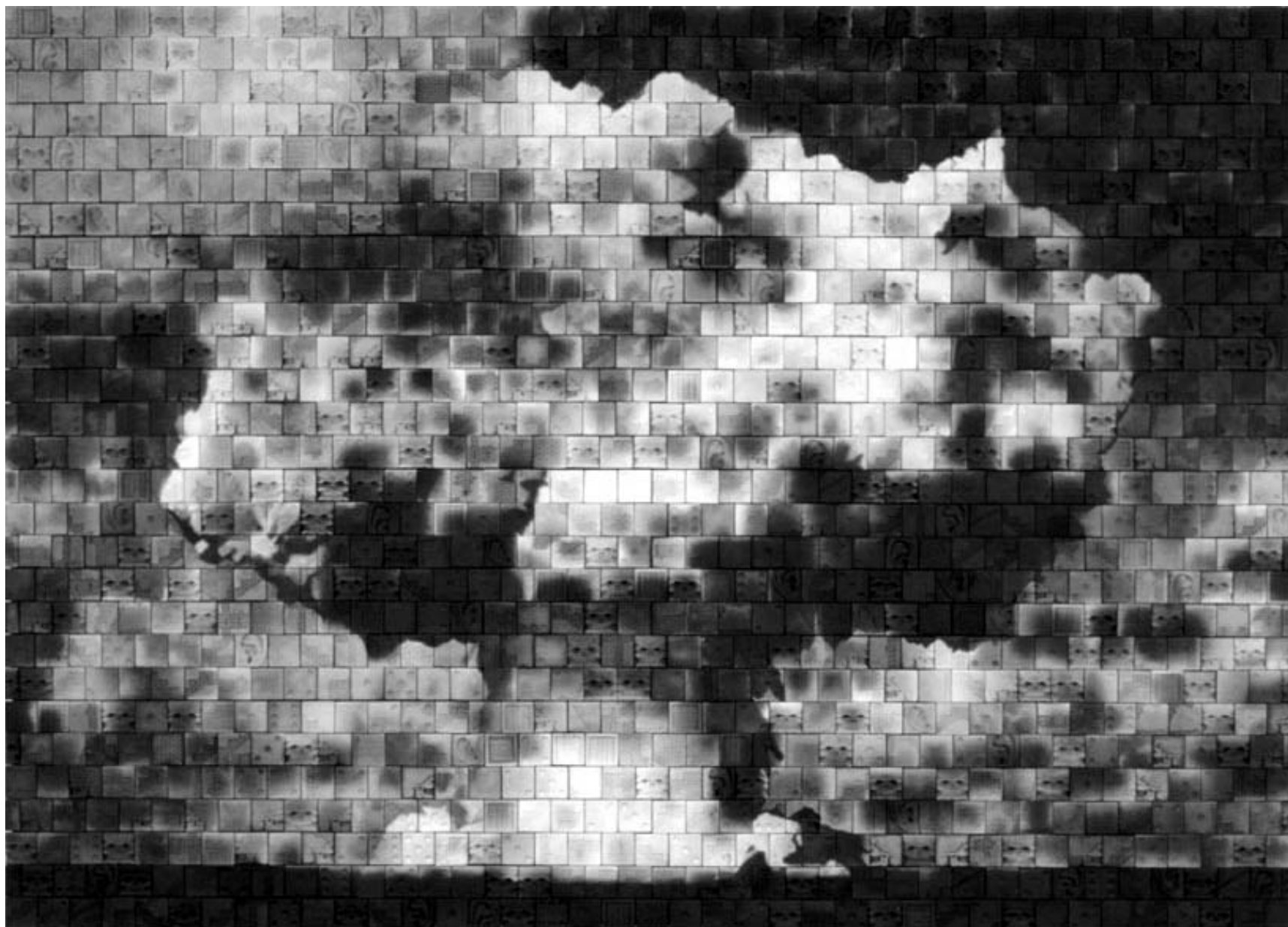
Manhattan Subway-Smithsonian Stop



Henri Matisse (almost life sized). Bronze castings from molded clay originals.



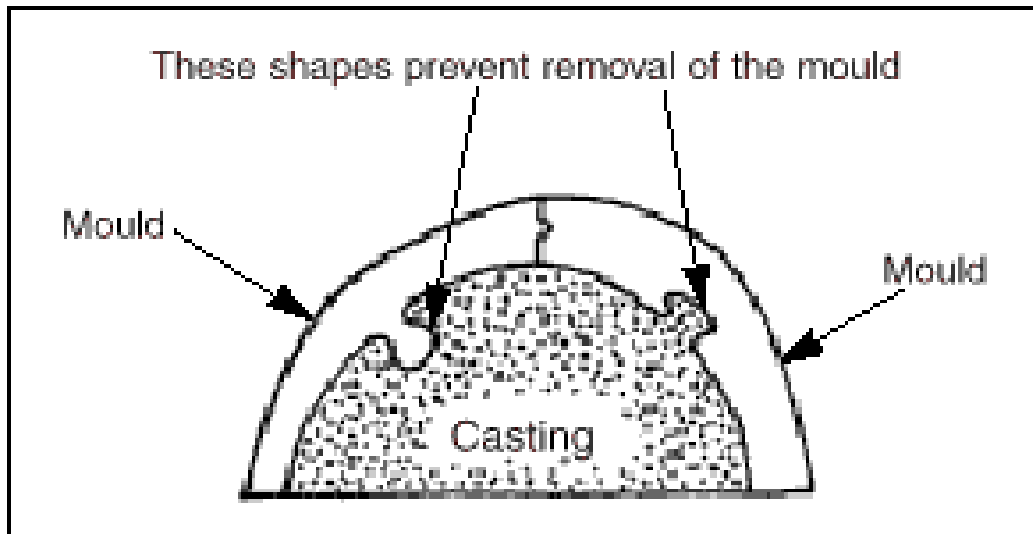
Richard Notkin



Richard Notkin



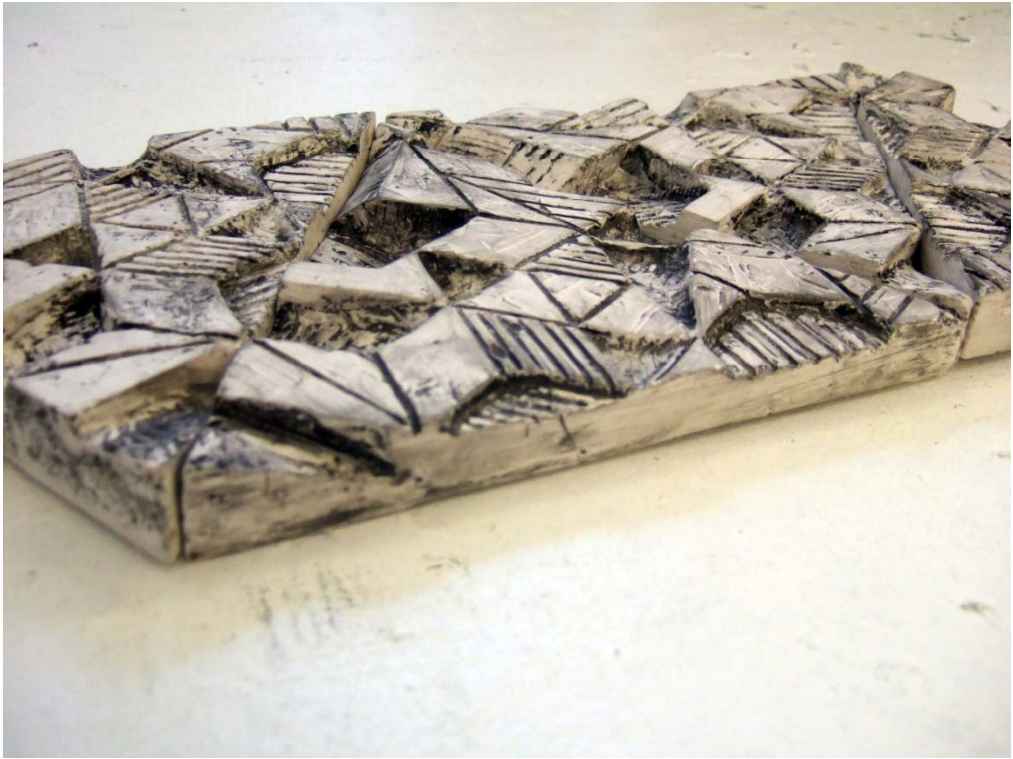
For our project: We are making tiles that can be reproduced with a one part silicone mold. to keep the molds simple, take care not to create undercuts. **Undercuts** are spaces in the sculpture that could trap mold making material or cast material. They can make it impossible to remove the mold from the cast and ruin the project.

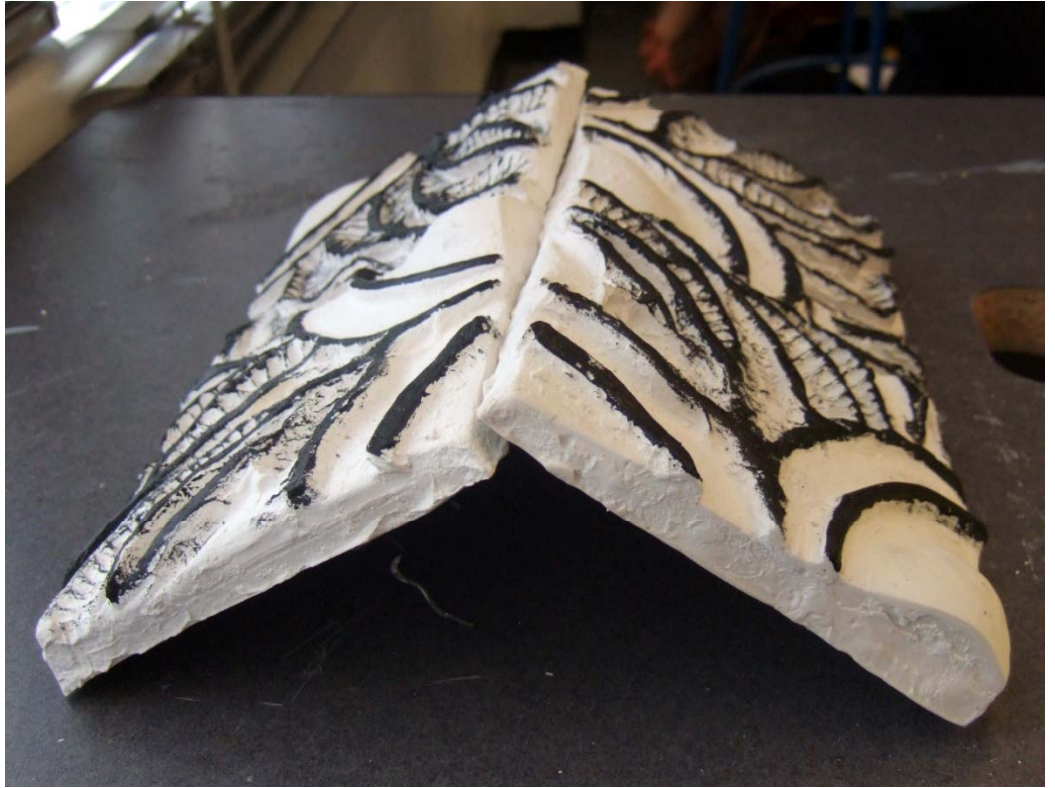


Relief Tile Student Examples



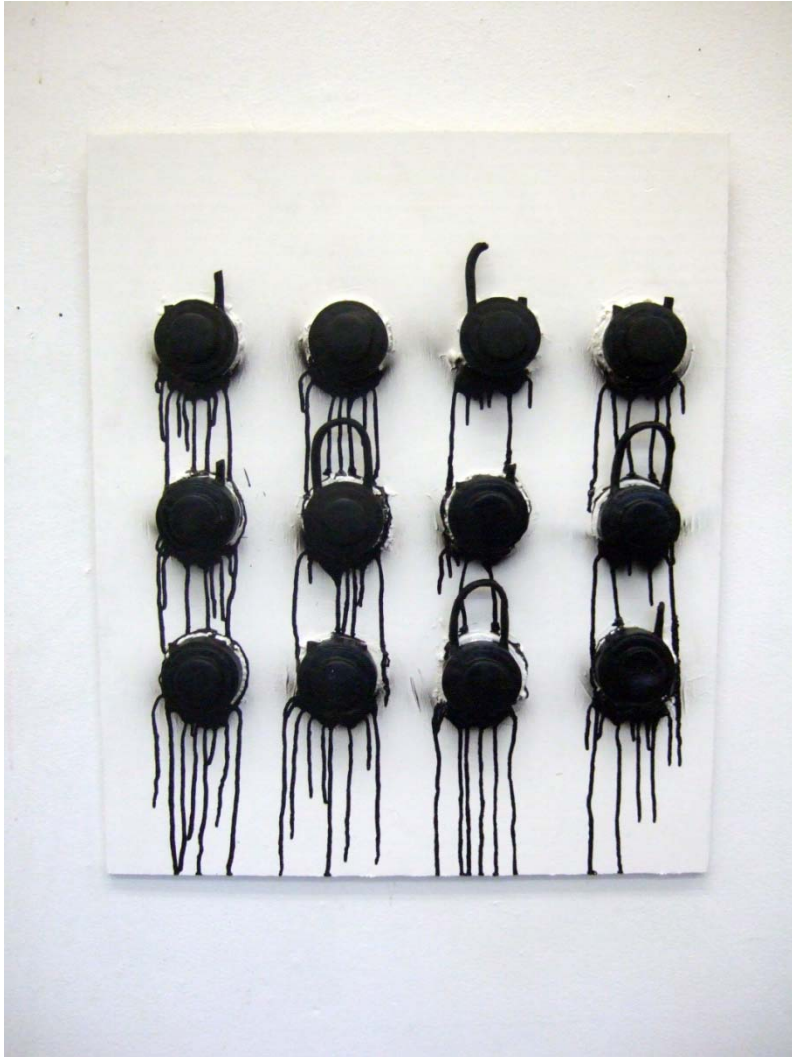






Other Student Casting Projects





A few of my casting
projects

Silicone Caulk Molds for sculptures in the round



Silicone Mold Making can be very expensive. Using the silicone caulk mold making technique You can cut costs dramatically. Using water based clay like in picture 1 gives consistently good results.

In the images above, the silicone piece is all one part (which is sealed by an overlap system in that lumpy ridge in picture 2). Because of the size of the artwork and the weight of the material, a mother mold was required (1/2 of the 2 part mother mold is shown in picture 3). A **mother mold** is a second layer to a mold that is hard and holds all of the flexible parts together.

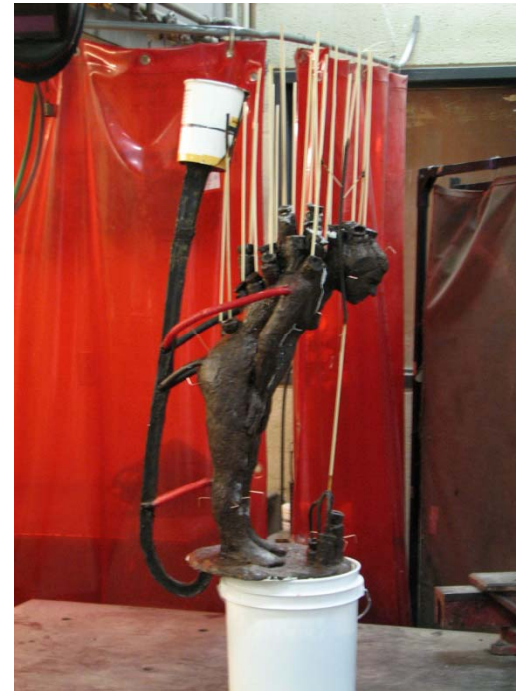
The cast plaster replica is shown in picture 4.

Lost-Wax Metal Casting at PSU!

Lost wax metal casting starts with an original sculpture. Often a mold is made from a clay sculpture and a casting is made in Wax.

The wax sculpture has some vents added (wax and wood) to create passages for the metal to flow easily.

A plaster mold is built around the wax sculpture and placed in a kiln. All wax and wood burns away leaving a plaster shell with the shape of the sculpture inside.





Metal is poured in, cooled and then the plaster mold is broken Away. Then The piece is “chased” or burs and imperfections are ground away.



The finished cast aluminum piece from
A clay original.