

## **KIDS @ CAM – At Home Family Projects**

### Spotlight on CAM's Collection

#### **MICHAEL VAN HOUT**

##### About the Artist:

Michael Van Hout started creating professional art over thirty-years ago after studying Forestry at NC State University and graduating with a BSA degree in sculpture from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1980.

His large installations of animals made of wire, copper, and other metals are in Airlie Gardens, The NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher, and Greenfield Lake Park in Wilmington, NC. In addition to wire and metal sculpture, Michael creates wood sculpture, woodcut prints, mixed media, mobiles, paintings, and various commissioned pieces located in museums and in private and public spaces.

In 2004, Michael was a part of a team of seven artists, each of whom created their own sculptures for the Airlie Gardens Bottle Chapel, a tribute to renowned artist, Minnie Evans. In addition to Michael, the Bottle-Chapel group included his sister, Brooks Koff; Virginia Wright-Frierson; Karen Crouch; Dumay Gorham; Hiroshi Sueyoshi; and guest artist Tejuola Turner.

Michael's current work includes galimotos, dynamic wire sculpture with wheels that turn. In 2016-17, he completed a 3-dimensional metal sign for Foxes Boxes Restaurant at 622 N. Fourth Street and art for a historic shirt factory recently converted into apartments. The art includes wire sculpture in a pocket garden and a mural covering the entire wall of the entrance to South Front Apartments, 1510 S. Third Street in Wilmington, NC.

Michael continues to contribute to the community through his work at DREAMS of Wilmington, Cameron Art Museum, and Leading Into New Communities (LINC).



## ART AT HOME – TIN FOIL CREATURES

### What You'll Need:

- Aluminum Foil
- Scissors
- Tape
- Paper
- Pencil

**Aluminum foil is easy to work with because you can bend it easily and attach more foil onto a piece to make it larger, but it does not break or tear easily. Use this to your advantage and experiment with all kinds of shapes and twists!**

- Step 1 – Find an area to work on where you can spread out your foil.
- Step 2 – Sketch an animal (or imaginary creature!) that you would like to create with your foil. Reference Michael Van Hout's work to help you come up with your design – you will be making the animal's outline, not filling it in solid.
- Step 3 – Begin to cut or rip pieces of foil and roll them together to create the structure of your animal. Foil is easy to work with so you can pinch pieces together to elongate and reinforce with tape if needed.
- Step 4 – Build your animal, knowing that you can easily change the shape of your foil if needed.
- Step 5 – Clean up your work area.

### Questions To Ask One Another:

- What is your creature's name? Tell a story about your creature (you can write one, or just tell someone). Where does it live, what is his personality like, what are his favorite things to do, etc.
- Did you enjoy working with foil as your medium?
- How is creating a 3-dimensional artwork different than making something that is 2-dimensional (flat)? Which do you prefer and why?

### Follow Up Project Ideas:

- Create another creature but this time incorporate other materials (pipe cleaners, craft sticks, foam shapes, etc.) into your creation!

