

# Chas Martin - Sculpture Workshop

## Materials Descriptions: These materials are provided by the Instructor

### Wire:

14 gauge galvanized steel – strong, more difficult to work with, great for strength

16 gauge galvanized steel – easier to work with, can be twisted in pairs for added strength

18-22 gauge stainless steel – great for details, hands, feet, tying heavier wires together.

Aluminum armature wire – great flexibility but little structural strength, good for details

### String:

Cotton string – when wrapped around other wires, will add bulk – arms, legs, necks, etc.

Cotton thread – helps add some stability to fingers, etc.

**Papers:** Alternate direction of fibers/grain for additional strength

Kraft paper – absorbent and thick, adds strength and provides structure for curved bridges

Newspaper – thinner, easier to tear, seams are less visible than kraft paper

Rice paper – long fibers, can be brushed into place, minimize paper or fabric seams

**Fabrics:** Natural fibers are more absorbent and more malleable than synthetics

Muslin – excellent absorbency, adds bulk and incredible strength (depending on weight of fabric)

### Fillers:

**Durham's Water Putty** – sets up quickly, can be carved when curing, dries very hard, sandable

**Hard Molding Paste** – great for filling small holes, covering seams

### Binders:

**Corn Starch/Resin Glue** – economical for build ups, dries very hard, especially in combinations of paper/fabric.

**PowerTex** – polymer fabric hardener, can be extended with water. <https://www.powertextart.us/>

**Golden GAC 400** Fabric Stiffener (available at Blick)

**Epoxy** – anchor wire into base, strengthen wire connections, some varieties dry within minutes

**Elmer's or TiteBond Wood Glue** (Exterior) all purpose and necessary additive to corn starch glue recipe.

**Gorilla Glue (White)** – foaming adhesive expands. Cures quickly. Use sparingly. Great for anchoring wire to boards, but not to each other.

**Super Glue Gel** – paper to paper, paper to board, wire to board, fingers to fingers...

### Bases:

Particle board, plywood, etc. – adds weight and stability, can be layered, easily drilled, carved, sanded. Seal before painting to prevent chipping, flaking.

### Other structural elements:

Bamboo – strong, light, can be split, sanded, drilled, wrapped with wire to bind heavy wires together. Splinters!

Aluminum foil – build up areas quickly, easily shaped, can be taped in place

Corrugated board – E-Flute<sup>®</sup> good structural element, attach to wire with Super Glue or Gorilla Glue, can be taped or tied to enhance shape, can be moistened to make it more malleable.

Wood, corks, dowels, almost anything has a purpose!

Paper roll cores – from wrapping paper, masking tape, aluminum foil, paper towels, etc. Variety in size and thickness appropriate for different applications.