

Ancient Metal Sculpting Techniques

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Metal Sculpting

- Metal Sculpting has been around for thousands of years, so I decided to investigate the techniques used to help these ancient people manipulate the metal into their desired form.
- I wanted to see if these techniques were still in use today.
- Today we'll be looking at 3 methods that were widely used in ancient times, and which some of are still being used today.



The Lost Wax Method

The Lost Wax Method, is a technique that dates back to 4500 B.C.E

The method involves making a plaster mold of whatever you desire to create.

You then pour wax into the mold.

The wax takes the shape of whatever was carved into the mold.

Fine details are then carved into the wax.

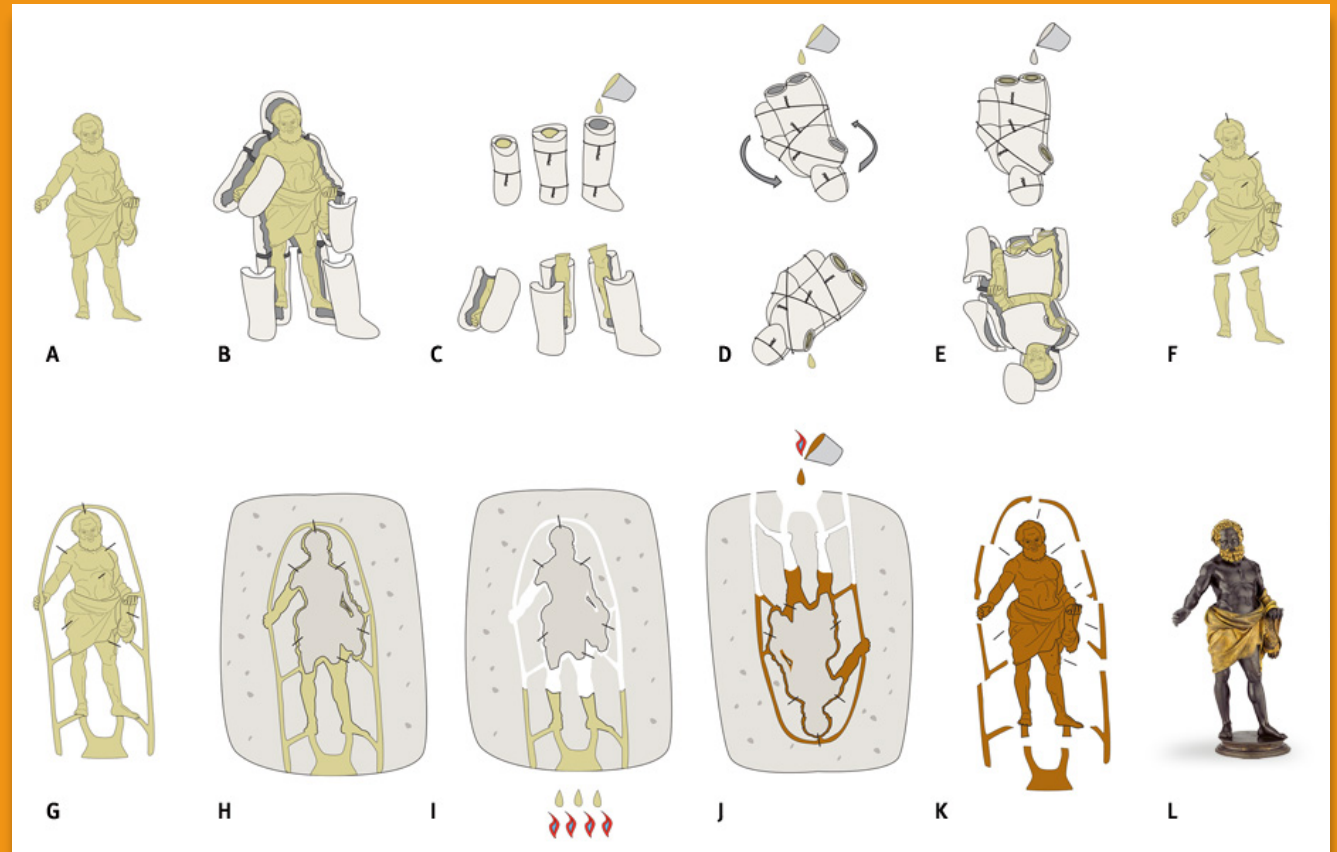
Another plaster mold is then prepared around the wax sculpture.

This mold is then placed into a kiln for the wax to melt.

What's left is a plaster mold of the desired sculpture.

Metal is then poured into this mold and allowed to cool.

After this the plaster mold is then broken, and what is left is the desired metal sculpture.



The Lost Wax Method cont.



This method is still used widely to this day.



Some of the advanced metal sculpting classes at CMU even teach this method to create their sculptures.

Sphyrelaton

- Literally Greek for “Hammer Driven” Sphyrelaton is the technique of hammering sheets of metal and connecting them together with rivets.
- This technique was used before the discovery of the lost wax method, to create large free-standing sculptures



Sphyrelaton cont.

Sphyrelaton is not widely used today.

There now exist many more forms of sculpting that allow for finer detail such as the lost wax method.

As such, Sphyrelaton was widely phased out of use.

Repoussé

- Repoussé is a technique in which designs on metal are raised in relief from the back side of the sculpture.
- This is done by using a hammer and a punch.
- A design is carved onto the back of a piece of metal, and is then hammered with a punch so that it raises out on the front.



Repoussé cont.

- This technique is still used today
- Widely used on copper and gold to create intricate designs on thin metal.



References

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