

## EXAMINING DIFFERENT THREE-DIMENSIONAL PROCESSES ©

By Connie J. Schlosberg

Three-dimensional art incorporates height, width, and depth giving artists another venue for creativity. Let's examine a few different processes for three-dimensional art, which includes sculpture, ceramics, and architecture. Below we will discuss Donatello's *David*, Santana and Adam Martinez's *Jar*, *San Ildefonso Pueblo, New Mexico*, and Frank Lloyd Wright's *Fallingwater*. All of these examples are fine works of art that were accomplished in different ways.

Donatello used the technique of bronze casting to create his statue of *David*. Bronze sculpting requires a high level of skill. This type of sculpting utilizes the modeling process. Bronze is a common metal used for cast metal sculptures. Bronze metals expand slightly before they set, which fill the finest details of the mold. Usually a mold is made from a clay pattern. A wax is then cast from the mold. Then the wax is put into another mold, which is heated in a kiln until the wax runs out. Then molten bronze is filled into the mold. Sculptures are special recognitions of art. Donatello's *David* is posed in the natural position of *contrapposto*. His version of David stands assured on top Goliath's head, holding Goliath's sword. When I observe Donatello's *David*, it is like watching victory. Seeing it in three-dimensional format brings the characters alive. It gives a sense of realism to the story.

Santana and Adam Martinez's *Jar* from the San Ildefonso Pueblo in New Mexico is a fine example of ceramic art. This jar was created using the coiling technique, which the clay is rolled out to long, rope-like strands and coiled on top of each other then smoothed together. Afterwards, the clay pot is suppressed in a bonfire using dung for fuel. This firing literally bakes the object until it hardens. Afterwards, a black-on-black design is painted on the jar. Pottery was used by the Native Americans for basic everyday needs. The black-on-black design is what the San Ildefonso Pueblo Indians are known for. Native American pottery is a joy for me to look at and even decorate my home with. I am fortunate enough to live close enough to these reservations and have observed the artisans at work. It's interesting to see the pottery I decorate my home with is also used by the Native Americans for utilitarian purposes.

Frank Lloyd Wright's *Fallingwater* is a classic modern architecture designed in the early twentieth century. Employing steel and reinforced concrete construction, Wright started his creation by conceiving it in his imagination. The next step was to draw the plans for building the house. In Wright's case, there were three floors on his site plan for *Fallingwater*, marked with colored pencils to differentiate the different floors. The natural cliffs of the hillside and stream were mirrored by reinforced concrete cantilevers. Wright used materials from the natural surroundings of the area, especially sandstone from a local quarry. *Fallingwater* is built into the land not just on it. His design has an organic naturalistic look with its open spaces and geometric lines. Several years ago, I had the chance to visit *Fallingwater*. Pictures do not do justice to this famous modern house. Ironically, the house didn't feel modern at all. It felt earthy, like being on an endless camping trip far out in Mother Nature.

In closing, three-dimensional works of art can be as powerful as any painting. Sometimes, it can say even more. Three-dimensional art is art you can feel, allowing you to connect to the work in a more personal way.