

# WIDE RAINBOW LESSONS: Artist Lynda Benglis

## ARTIST INTRO:

Lynda Benglis (B. 1941) is a celebrated American artist and sculptor working with experimental and found materials. Benglis was raised in Louisiana and moved to New York in 1964. Trained as a painter, she preferred using wax to paint and came to attention with her poured-latex floor works in the 1960-1970s. She continues to explore new and playful forms of sculpture today including recent works made of paper, chicken wire, paint, and glitter. For more than fifty years she has been a pioneer of sculpture and has been exhibited widely over the years. Her work is found in major private and public museum collections today.

## ARTWORK:





**Lynda Benglis**  
**Proto Knot, 1972**  
**Aluminum wire mesh, cotton bunting, plaster,**  
**paint, and sparkles**  
**29 × 20 1/2 × 7 inches**

## **WORKSHOP:**

*Let's break away from painting and create "sparkle paper" sculptures inspired by artist Lynda Benglis!*

1. Start with your materials – find the right size of wire for your sculpture's structure, then gather color glitter, glue, paper and water
2. Form your wire into interesting shape, it can be anything!
3. Mix your glue and water together in a bin or bowl
4. Wet your paper until it becomes sticky and flexible
5. Mold it on to your wire, add layers of paper and color glitter
6. Let dry and continue to apply more paper, flitter until you think your artwork is finished
7. Share your process and sculpture with friends, family, or fellow students

## **MATERIALS:**

- Mesh or Chicken Wire
- Wire Cutters
- Glitter
- Glue
- Paper
- Water & Bowl
- *Optional: Paint & Brushes*

**“I wasn’t  
breaking away  
from painting  
but trying to  
redefine what it  
was.”**

**- Lynda Benglis**



**FOLLOW UP:**

What kind of materials do you need to make art?

Where can you find materials?

What is sculpture?

What does your sculpture mean to you?

Is art about the end result? The finished artwork?

Or the process? Explain your process?

Your materials and form?

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