

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

Joanne Risley is a Cheshire based sculptor who mainly works in weathering steel. Her work is inspired by nature and she is fascinated by the transformation of natural elements when they are recreated on a larger scale in steel. As a child the artist visited Pembrokeshire every summer where she loved watching dragonflies flit about the lily ponds at Bosherton.

These beautiful insects have survived since the age of the dinosaurs. You can see Joanne's bronze "Dragonflies on Reeds" moving in the wind along the mill race.



YOU WILL NEED:

- Copper Embossing foil
- A piece of foam, felt or other soft surface
- Several small beads (the holes must be large enough to take a double length of wire)
- Copper wire
- A pencil
- Tracing Paper
- Sharpies
- Scissors
- Wire cutters
- Tacky Glue
- Pliers
- Stencil outline (provided separately)
- Inspiration photos (provided separately)
- Hole punch (optional)
- A willow stick, bamboo cane or similar to mount your butterfly on

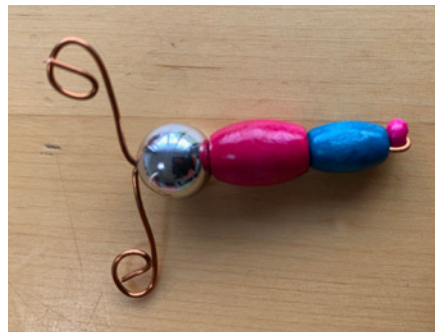


PROCESS

- Trace your wing shape onto some your foil (the pencil will emboss rather than mark the line).
- Cut it out using the scissors.
- Place your wing onto your foam with the copper side down.
- Draw patterns and shapes on your wing with a sharpish pencil. Try to make your design symmetrical (this is where one wing mirrors the other, you could hold a mirror on the centre line of the wings to help you). Press hard enough to emboss the lines.
- Punch some holes if you wish and colour in some areas with your coloured sharpie pens.



- Cut a 16 cm length of wire.
- Thread a small bead onto the wire down to the exact centre point.
- Fold the wire ends upwards holding the bead with pliers then twist the wire to secure the bead.



- Thread more beads on with a round one for the head.
- Pull the ends apart to make the antennae.
- Curl the ends (you can do this by wrapping the ends around a skewer/cocktail stick or something similar).



- Glue the 'body' section to the centre of the wings.
- Tie the butterfly to your stick with fine copper wire and push the stick into the soil of a garden border. Watch it catch the light and move in the wind.



WANT MORE?

You can make dragonflies in the same way. They have longer bodies and narrower wings.

You can make their eyes by gluing two large beads together then, instead of making antennae, wrap the excess wire (you will need to start off with a longer length than for a butterfly) around the middle of the eyes to secure.

