

# MINGEI

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

## Helen Shirk Silhouette Necklace

### Exhibition Inspiration

*Allied Craftsmen Today*

(June 15, 2013 - Jan 5, 2014)

### Grade Level

Upper Elementary (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)

### Materials

Black construction paper, cardstock, paper punches in various shapes, scissors, glue stick, string. *Optional:* instead of paper punches, leaves, twigs and flowers can be traced and cut.



Helen Shirk, *Hematite Trace Necklace*, 2010, steel. Collection of the Artist.

### Project Time for Activity

30-45 minutes

### Project Description

Helen Shirk is a metal artist who creates jewelry and other forms inspired by man's precarious relationship with the natural world. She draws on the power of nature to create designs that highlight the delicate yet strong outlines of the natural environment.

#### ***What is a silhouette?***

A silhouette is an image of a person or object represented as a solid shape of a single color, usually black. The edges of the shape match the outline of the object.

Shirk believes in the "instinctual longing for the natural world" and the "vital role nature plays in the enjoyment of life every day."

Although Shirk uses sheets of hard steel in her work, in the following lesson, students will use black construction paper to create a necklace, bracelet or decoration inspired by Shirk's work.

### Objectives

*Students will:*

- Use the interaction between positive and negative space expressively in a work of art.
- Write a narrative to develop real experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear event sequences.
- Identify artists from his or her own community and discuss local and regional traditions.
- Discuss how the subject and selection of media relate to the meaning or purpose of a work of art.