

Anne Jordan--Copperwork

When creating my copper artwork, I am inspired by both nature and the properties of copper itself.

My favorite subjects are flowers, sea life, suns, and moons. Creating lifelike plants and animals is a satisfying challenge, as I enjoy forming hard copper into delicate and fluid objects.

I dissect plants to make templates for my flower sculptures. I strive to capture the veins and peculiarities of the leaves and flower petals that make each plant easily identifiable. In order to make a trout look distinct from a bass or bluefish, I capture subtleties in the body, lips, fins and gills. In addition to making my animals lifelike, I try to give them a touch of personality.

The accuracy and detail in my work makes many viewers think I use molds, which I do not. Each piece is hand hammered on both sides with chisels and tools, while supported on pitch, plasticine, or a sandbag. Heating the copper until it is red hot (annealing) softens it, making it easier to hammer and add dimension. I use an oxygen/acetylene torch and brazing rods to attach pieces together.

I am always experimenting to come up with new and creative methods to texture and color copper. For example, I have hammered against the sidewalk for a pebbly texture. I have used a hatchet, a rusted old railroad rail, and many other items to create distinct textures. I make specially shaped chisels and alter hammers to impart textures onto the copper. In some cases, I create an interesting texture using an acid etch process.

To color copper, I use torches and homemade or store bought patinas. I spend a lot of time developing textures and patinas that reflect the subtleties of the plants and animals, while highlighting the warmth of the copper. This ensures that unique piece will become more beautiful over time.