



Material World

Lynda Benglis has created art from wax, liquid latex, neon lights, ceramics, polyurethane foam, and metal. She chooses her materials based on their physical properties and cultural references to evoke many different associations and emotions in viewers.



Eridanus, 1984

Take a closer look

Lynda Benglis (b. 1941) often has one material masquerade as another. In *Eridanus* she transformed wire, bronze, zinc, copper, and aluminum into a form resembling knotted cloth. Benglis titled the work after a constellation, but intends for viewers to interpret it for themselves.

In her own words

"I was attracted to [metals] because of the notions of energy that the metals have, and [like a] muskrat, you are attracted by something that shines."

Who knew?

The constellation Eridanus has been associated with rivers in many ancient cultures. Star maps often portray it as a river flowing from the constellation Aquarius. The ancient Greeks associated Eridanus's haphazard path with the veering flight of Phaëton, son of Apollo, when he unsuccessfully sought to steer the sun chariot.

Lynda Benglis, *Eridanus*, 1984; Bronze, zinc, copper, aluminum, and wire; 58 x 48 x 37 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of AT&T, Inc.; Art © Lynda Benglis/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

