



# Transcript

## Lost Wax Video

**Stevens:** My name is Jamie Stevens. I'm part of the University of South Carolina Sculpture Department. I'm also a part of the Carolina Association of Sculpture Students here. It's a club here at school.

And what I'm showing you now is the beginning process of the lost wax process. This is actually the wax table that we have. Um, we have the petroleum-based wax that we use and also the screws and vents that are here. The little red wax here. And, uh, we basically start our molds right here. Whenever you start, you know, building your sculpture, this is where we first start.

This is the first layer. This is zircon, which is actually the inner layer of the wax molds after they've already been finished, screwed, vented, and gated. We dip them here and we have the prim coat. Then you sprinkle on the zircon. That's about three layers. Then after that, we have to spin with this mix. And this is what builds up the bulk of the mold and the actual outside. And this is just granules of silicon. And this is the final process ...once that dipped. But here, actually, you have your, your vent here, where you pour the bronze into it. It fills up the mold, and you have air and everything comes out of these side areas, and these are your vents, your gates.

This is our kiln. We're running about 1,700 degrees. Uh, first of the wax you have to burn out before your pour the bronze in. This is it before it's burned out. Then the mold turns white whenever it has. And you see it's a totally empty mold. But we have to burn these out and then pretty much we have to keep the mold hot so you can pour the bronze. So after these are burned out, you put them in the sand so they can stay hot and insulated and then that's whenever you pour the bronze into this. And that's basically just a burnout here. We've got the catcher down here. And normally whenever there's wax, it explodes and you have six-foot flames out the top.

[Music plays as students remove molds from the kiln, place them in sand, and pour bronze into them.]

These are the molds that we cast yesterday and we're about to break them out, hopefully. Hopefully, they came all the way through. Um, we do have a chicken egg that was cast that was burned out and paper that's included with my mold, but the rest of it is just freehand sculpting from wax. Well, let's go ahead and break them. It's good.

[Music plays as molds are broken out.]

We sandblast this and then we, you know, after you chase it, you know, to do the finishing and polishing of the whole entire piece and then we'll be done. A very long process for one piece of art, but it's worth it. [Music.] *End of video.*