

PRODUCTION STAGES BRONZE SCULPTURE ÁR GCLUICHE FÉIN



ONE



Model

- After an initial design, a small clay model is made that expresses the artists's idea and gives a sense of dimensions.

TWO



Armature

- A metal frame - or armature - is made to hold the large sculpture.

THREE



Sculpting

- Over several months, the artist applies and shapes clay on the armature, creating the large sculpture.

FOUR



Mould

- The clay limbs are removed, and a rubber mould is made of what are now separate pieces of the large clay sculpture.

FIVE



Wax

- Next, hot wax is poured or brushed into the molds, creating a hollow copy of the original. The wax pieces are then coated with a heat-resistant material to form a strong outer shell.

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SIX



Burn Out

- The coated pieces are then heated in a kiln, causing the wax inside to melt and drain away, leaving behind a hollow cavity in the exact shape of the sculpture. This step is what gives the process its name: “lost-wax casting”.

SEVEN



Bronze Pour

- The bronze is poured into the space left by the wax, and once cooled, the outer heat-resistant layer can be removed, leaving the raw bronze pieces.

EIGHT



Assembly

- Using an internal steel armature to reinforce the sculpture, the different pieces are welded together, and the surface is smoothed out, so the seams are no longer visible.

NINE



Final Processing

- Details of the sculpture are refined in a process called chasing. The sculpture is treated with chemicals to create a patina, giving the bronze its final colour. A coat of wax and polish restores the metal’s lustre.

TEN



Installation

- Finally, the finished sculpture is placed on a plinth on-site and revealed to the public. The sculpture is very durable and should survive for centuries.