

## WIRE SCULPTURES

My class of 1970 was the first to produce wire sculptures, an event that has lasted over 47 years and still counting.

Among our faculty at the time was Ben Moffett, an anatomist by training. Ben felt that traditional medical and dental education omitted the humanities, specifically the relationship between art and medicine. Perhaps we are bound by our technical skills pushing away from some misty higher experience (?). He wanted to awaken and stimulate our latent appreciation for this interaction by exposing us to a UW art professor friend who shared these lofty thoughts. We had many lectures on various art forms and their higher meaning. Ben then wanted us to experiment and enliven our own talents with a hands-on project. What better way than to use the tools of our trade to create something outside of our orthodontic single-minded experience.

Al Moore, the founder and first chairman of the department, traditionally hosted a holiday dinner party at his home for senior residents and spouses. When art sculptures entered the picture, Al's annual dinner was replaced by an annual restaurant party for all orthodontic residents, spouses, and faculty. The sculptures were on display for all to admire.

The simple sculptures of my time were upgraded each year by more sophisticated and creative attempts at art creation. Somewhere along the line, Ben's ethereal link between art and orthodontics may have been lost on us, but I am pleased that the dinner and wire sculpture tradition continues. Happy Holidays!

Bob Little

SELF PORTRAIT circa 1970



