



**waste**  
**MANAGEMENT**

Local artist Samantha Churchill gives new life to scrap metal

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Discarded aluminum wires taken from construction sites have been turned into beautiful androgynous creatures. (Shown here Fred Ball Park)



◀ Samantha Churchill and her boyfriend Mark Barish stand in front of SkyPoint Condominiums in downtown Tampa—the construction project that provided Sam with the materials for her sculptures.

field engineer.

“You should see all the stuff that gets thrown out on construction sites,” says Mark. “There were four 30-yard dumpsters out every night for months on end; the biggest dumpsters you can imagine, with everything packed down with a forklift.”

In fact, Sam and Mark rebuilt half their home with leftover materials from the 32-story SkyPoint condo project: a gazebo, a deck, the kitchen, even a spa. “Our 1950s house is as green as the termites allow,” Mark jokes.

But the best thing to come out of the construction site: Samantha’s wire sculptures. “People love the fact that these are eco-friendly pieces of art,” says Sam, “and it’s nice to be able to help out in the little way I can... it’s that old saying, teach by doing.”

Samantha just landed a show in New York. She’s also featured at the Tampa Artist Emporium and in galleries in Miami and Ft. Meyers. Her next series will feature what she calls “the grotesque.”

“I want to see how far I can push the human body. I want to mimic contortionists, the double-jointed,” she says.

There’s still enough scrap metal for two more years’ worth of wire sculptures. Sam says that when she runs out, she’ll just get with a contractor, put on a hard hat and start collecting scraps. ■



▲ The wire sculptures can be hung on the wall or displayed anywhere in your home or lawn.

**A**rtist Samantha Churchill sits in her hot tub with a glass of wine, staring at the tower of aluminum scraps in her backyard. A thought enters her mind: *I haven’t done someone upside down yet.*

She immediately gets to work in her in-home studio. There are no drawings, no molds, just Sam and her creative hands. It takes nearly a week to manipulate the wire into something that resembles a graceful trapeze artist dangling in mid air.

The upside-down form joins wire flamingos, giraffes, acrobats and dancers—all made from the two tons of aluminum wire her boyfriend, Mark Barish, took home from SkyPoint’s construction site, where he worked as a

## DO YOUR PART

You may not be able to turn leftover scrap metal into works of art, but you can make a difference. According to the Clean Air Council, the average American tosses 4.39 pounds of trash a day, and up to 56 tons of trash per year. Only about one-tenth of it gets recycled.

## HERE’S WHAT TO DO:

- Visit [www.TampaGov.net/Dept\\_Solid\\_Waste](http://www.TampaGov.net/Dept_Solid_Waste) to request a blue box or find recycling drop-off locations.
- Stop throwing away old books and magazines, junk mail, plastic bottles (numbers 1 and 2) what’s this mean?, aluminum cans and glass bottles; they can all be recycled curbside in your new blue box.
- Wash and reuse plastic baggies and aluminum foil.
- Keep your egg cartons around to store golf balls and jewelry, or break up the Styrofoam and use it for packing material.
- Turn your empty Altoids tin into a traveling sewing kit, or use it to carry aspirin.
- Yogurt and margarine tubs (numbered 3-7 does this mean through 7 or 3 and 7?) that cannot be recycled can be reused as Tupperware
- Instead of discarding old or flat tires, use them as large flower pots in your yard, or attach it to a tree and use as a swing.