

CERAMIC SCULPTURE

General Information On Ceramics—An Overview

CERAMICS is a 3-dimensional art form which is medium specific to clay. The ceramics tradition can be divided into three general categories:

- **POTTERY**— vessels and containers
- **SCULPTURE**—figures, architecture, jewelry, furniture, bas relief
- **TILES**—flat glaze and color decoration, relief sculpture, bricks

CLAY CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES:

1. Pinch—whole piece of clay pinch and additive pinch
2. Slab—flat construction, sluff molding, and hump molding
3. Coil—stacking coils and coiled slabs
4. Molds—slip casting and press molding
5. Subtractive—carving; dry and leather hard, hollowing out
6. Wheel throwing—using the potter's wheel

HINTS FOR SUCCESSFUL CLAY CONSTRUCTION:

1. Start with a good idea: thinking
2. Make a workable plan: drawing, more than one view
3. Start at the bottom, base
4. Make pinky thick
5. Hollow and vented
6. Score and slip (milkshake)—for connecting pieces together
7. Keep damp—plastic bags and spray bottles

DECORATIVE TECHNIQUES FOR WET CLAY:

(these techniques can be used during the construction process)

1. Add—applique
2. Subtract—carving, cutting, and faceting

3. Incising—stamping and drawing
4. Colored clays—colored slips and stains in the damp clay body—inlay

POSSIBLE CLAY PROJECTS:

1. Pottery—vessels or containers—traditional, ethnic and novel invention
 2. Sculpture—figurative work (human, plant, animal)
 3. Architecture—shelters, buildings (primitive to modern) cross cultural
 4. Masks—African, Asian, American,—plaster molds from life casting
 5. Dream boxes—(Louise Nevelson)—personal symbols
 6. Musical instruments—drums, maracas, whistles (ocarinas), strings
 7. Jewelry—beads, pins, and pendants
 8. Stamps and rollers—texture devices
 9. Tiles—decorative flat work (commercial and hand-made tiles)
 10. Murals—tile, mosaic, and bas relief sculpture
 11. Clay and other materials—combustible and noncombustible
 12. Assemblage—fired clay devices assembled (mix with nonclay objects)
 13. Mythological animals—novel combinations of human and animal parts
 14. Printmaking—use a clay template for collagraphic print rubbing
 15. Plaster molds—slip or pressing: original molds
-