

Handout - Head Project

Take This



Bag of new clay

Make This



Sculpted head)

Read

Preparation: Four pictures will be taken of your head and these pictures should be on your desk as you work on this project.



The 4 pictures

This is one of two times in this class that you will be using new clay.

Tools: You will be using sculpting tools, the needle tool, wire tool, sponge, paint brush and any other tool you think will help with your sculpting. You will also need a project board and a banding wheel.



Tools, clay, water container etc.

Process; Cut yourself a block of clay from the bag (don't cut a thick slice but a block). The block should be about 3" by 3" and 5" long. Cut about 1 1/2" off the bottom of the block. Pound the larger of these pieces into the general shape of your head and the smaller into ball to be shaped into your neck. In the classroom there are some Styrofoam heads. If one is available, take it to your desk and look at it as you begin this project. Join the two pieces together to form a crude head. Place the crude head on a project board, and place the project board with the head on a banding wheel.



New Clay



Clay Block



1 1/2" off bottom



Forming head and neck



Joining Head to Neck



On Project Board

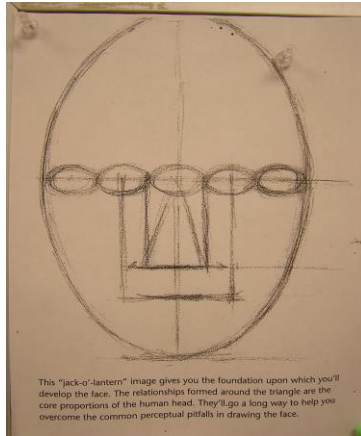


Project Board on Banding Wheel



Sculpting

Get some guide lines on the head to determine where your nose, eyes, and mouth go. The “Jack-O-Lantern” picture below is helpful in identifying where features are located. Draw an X on your head to help you find the location of features.



Jack-O-Lantern picture

By putting an X in your clay you have a basic roadmap for where major features go.



Head with “X” using the wire tool

Features: In the classroom there are sculptures of eyes, nose, mouth and ears that will help you with this next step. If available put them on your desk as you work on these features.



Facial feature sculptures

Eyes: Push a dent in the head and add a small ball of clay to represent the eyeball. Coil a small amount of clay and wrap it around the eyeball in the shape of an eye, then use your fingers to compress the coil to make it look more realistic.

Nose: Simply add a piece of clay in the middle of the head and use your fingers and tools to shape the nose.

Mouth: Similar to the eyes, start with a hole where the opening is, then adding coils of clay to represent the lips. Use your fingers or tools to make the lips look more realistic.

When adding any of your features, look at your picture, use the models, feel your eyes, lips or nose and then shape them as best you can with your fingers or whatever tool works for you.





Making it look real: After these structural pieces are in place the hard work of making it look real begins. You must now use your fingers or tools to create a real looking set of eyes. Check to make sure the features are in the correct location, and if not, fix them. Sculpting a head is about fixing things over and over again. As you are working on your head remember to rotate it so you can see it from several directions. Are your eyes sticking out? If so, push them back in. Is your nose too big or small? Fix it. Is your chin too small? If so, add some clay. Ears are added like the nose; make sure you are adding them in the correct location relative to your eyes. Look at your picture, look at the model, and fix as needed.

Hair: Add a slab of clay (new clay) to form the shape of your hair. When adding this slab it is very important not to create air bubbles. Put the hair on the front of the forehead and attach it going backward, making sure you don't create air bubbles. Use the wire brush to make the hair look more realistic.



Hollowing your head: Cut your head in half with a wire tool. Cut from top to bottom through the neck, separating the front of the head from the back. Choose a location that has as few details as possible. This could be in front of the ears?



After the head is cut in half you need to hollow it out, leaving the walls about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch thick. Take out clay where the nose is and attempt to leave no wall more than $\frac{1}{2}$ thick. Thick clay takes longer to dry and increases the chance of the sculpture exploding during the bisque fire in the kiln.



After it is hollowed-out, put it back together. Scratch the surfaces, add water, and then push the two pieces back together. It is very likely that this process will cause some imperfections in your head--so fix them.



Head that has been hollowed and put back together

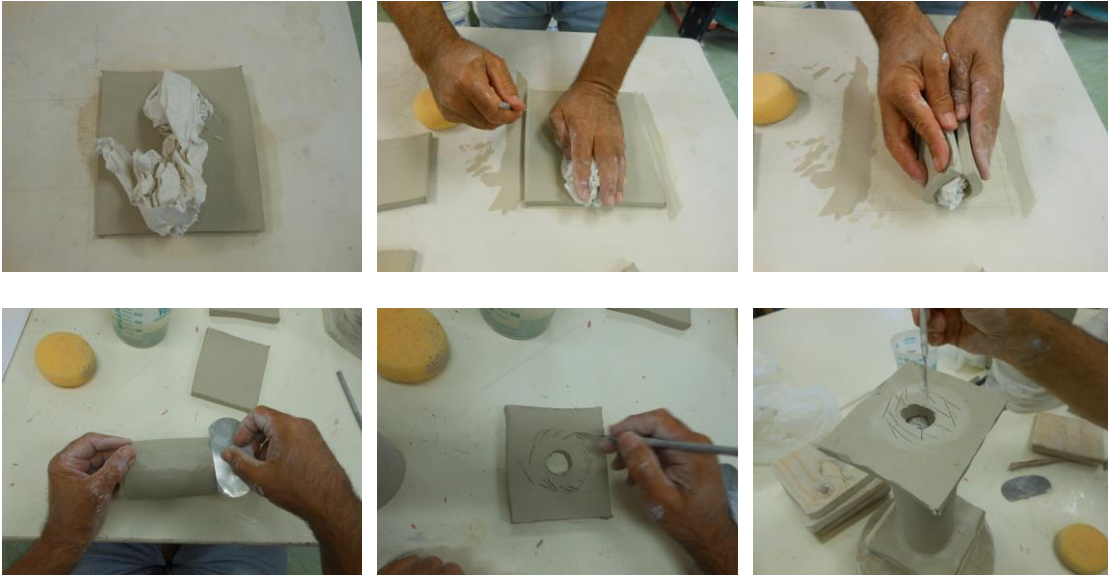
One more time look at your head; fix it by adding or cutting away clay. At this point you should be ready to use the paint brush and sponge to finish out all the surfaces.

The stand: The stand is a slabbing project but for this project you get to use new clay. Cut enough clay to create your stand.



Cutting clay, adjusting setting and 3 slabs

Both the top and bottom of the stand need to have a hole in them so air can flow from the bottom of the stand to the top of the head. The slabs for the stand will need to be almost $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick to hold up the head. For the column of the stand you will need to scratch the two sides and then roll it together compressing the joint. It is sometimes helpful to put some wadded-up paper towels in the slab to keep its shape. These paper towels can be left in the column and will turn to ash during the bisque fire.



Attach the top and bottom of the stand using the same scratching and wetting technique. Wait until the stand is leather-hard to attach the head. Either set the head outside to dry or cover it with plastic. Don't spray the stand when covering if you want it to dry out. The head needs to be sprayed each night before it is covered.



Attach the head to the stand use the same scratching and wetting process. Take one more look and fix anything you see needing fixing. When you are happy with what you have made it is time to let it dry. Drying time for heads --because of the thickness of the clay-- takes longer than other pieces. Make sure it is good and dry before you load it into the kiln.



Finished head set out to dry

Watch – the Video.

Do - This is when put what you have learned into action