

Assignment :: ALPHABET SOUP

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This project is much less open than the former one. It is a short assignment, and will conclude the sculpture portion of this ceramics class.

We will be reconstructing type to form a large portion of the alphabet, or a phrase that the class decides on. While each letter will be created by an individual, all the letters will be displayed together as an installation when the project is completed. These letters will be highly decorative, personalized, and imbued with meanings generated by words that start with the letter on which you are working. So that this project will (hopefully) make sense in the end, there are some very specific parameters all of us must go by. Your Letter:

- must be literal enough to be able to be 'read'
- must be at least 2 inches deep
- must be exactly 10 inches tall (when green)
- must be highly decorative (i.e. every inch should be covered; they must be visually engaging and rich at multiple levels)
- must be able to be hung on the wall. THERE IS NO COMPROMISE ON THIS FACT

Research & Development:

A: The letter itself will be imbued with meanings generated by words associated with that letter. Make a list of at least 30 words that might be interesting to you that start with (or are close to?) the letter you are working with. From this list of 30, you will rank your favorite 10. Use these 10 to generate ideas (they can be multiple) about your letter. This is to be put in your sketchbook by CLASS TIME, NEXT WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12th.

B: DEVELOP AN IDEA! Create at least 4 quick thumbnail sketches in your notebook. Include what the detail of the letter might look like. This is to be put in your sketchbook by CLASS TIME, NEXT WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12th.

C: The type that letters are written in (their font) also means different things. Fonts are generated from particular time periods for specific reasons, and have different cultural associations. When thinking about your project the kind of type that it refers to will have a direct impact upon its meaning. Thus, the final part of your research is to know what type of Font(s) you are using/referencing to make your letter. Your final proposal will include an example of the Font, and a full page sketch of your letter. Present this to me no later than NEXT WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12th.

D: WORKING! You can get started as early as you want as long as you have your act together. We will work by a very specific schedule for this project:

Sunday October 23rd at midnight: All wet work stops on these letters.

Monday October 24th at 6:00pm: Letters get loaded into the kiln and bisqued

Wednesday October 26th Letters are unloaded and glazing starts.

Friday October 28th: Letters are loaded into the kiln at 5:00pm

Friday November 4th: Crit and Installation

Wednesday November 2nd. "Feast and Fancy (Pottery Assignment)" begins.

E: Misc.:

- Whether or not you make the piece fully 3 dimensional (i.e. with a back) is up to you. Many of you will choose to make the back hollow. This makes for easier construction and easier hanging.
- There are several multilingual students in this class. I am open to a proposal to make two phrases: one in English and one in another language.
- If students are interested in working with another clay body (i.e. stoneware), then they will have to take the initiative to mix this clay on their own.