

## **Handbuilding :: Archaeological Future @ 10,000 Degrees**

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Ceramic artifacts hold a particularly important place in archaeology as they are one of the few material traces that remain from many ancient cultures. They offer clues of the material culture of these societies, and aid in speculation about the structure of their culture. Fired clay is incredibly durable. Vessels used for storing, cooking and serving food have been dated around 12 and 13,000 years ago in ancient Japan.

Archaeology is the metaphorical backdrop of this assignment -- works that have been unearthed throughout the millennia. However, instead of fixating on specific objects (though that is also an acceptable approach for this assignment) I want to think of this as a narrative beginning, or starting point, for a bigger invented 'story' you will have about your object.

### THE ASSIGNMENT

The piece you make for this second assignment will indeed be archaeological; but it can be uncovered anywhere from 10,000 years ago, to 10,000 years into the future. You may choose to base your archaeological object on a particular real civilization in human history, a mythic one from the past, an invented one in the future, or a future civilization finding an object from our current civilization. (Obviously other iterations exist, these are just some examples.) The solutions are open ended (though the technique you use is not). You are welcome to be as inventive as you like, or you may choose to actually replicate an ancient artifact that you find in a book or museum. (The object that you are replicating does not have to be 'ceramic'.)

### Technical Parameters:

1. All of these objects must be made using the coiling method that I demo in class. Any ceramic surface treatment is acceptable.
2. You must make a mock up of your piece. (3D Sketch) I always suggest 3 ideas. The mockup you end up doing must be refined. The mockup is your sketch for me to review. It must be accurate to scale; it is the model by which your larger piece will go by. If you make multiple mockups, you can wait to really refine the one you decide on after we've discussed it if you wish. Your first mockup is due on MONDAY Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>.
3. Size: your object must be at least 12" wide or tall
4. Bring in an historical piece to present to class. Your presentation should take just a minute or so. This is what you need: 1) A photocopy from a book (not online) 2) Citation of the book 3) Information about the object & the culture it came from 4) age of the object. These are due at the beginning of class on MONDAY, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>.