

Ceramics Handbuilding (CE 101-102) :: Assignment #1

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MYSTORICAL VESSEL

The Basics: You will be making an 18" tall replica of a historical pot

Many historical ceramic works tell mythical stories, depict ways of life, and give the viewer clues about the culture from which they sprang. Your piece will do the same.

1. Locate a picture of a historical vessel FROM A BOOK that has a narrative or strong imagery on it. Greek vases, some Chinese porcelains, and many Native American vessels will work. In particular, look for work that has a strong decorative element to it: icons, narratives, stories, symbols, etc. You will be making two 'copies' of this vessel, so find one that you find interesting. Wednesday's class is a good time to find this object, and bring it to me to make sure that it will work.
2. Then go to your favorite photocopy store and make two enlargements. One will be 9" tall, the other will be 18" tall. Grid both of these photocopies out in one inch squares.
3. Next, make a drawing of the pot in your sketchbook. (As large as it is possible to make in your sketchbook). I am not grading the drawings but I am looking for time, effort, and an honest attempt to make a good drawing. Contour is extremely important in this drawing, as it is the subtlety of contour that will be the most difficult to replicate in our assignment. By drawing you are already developing knowledge of the shape of the vessel.
4. Make a 9" mock up of the object: this is your test piece. This is due, finished, at the beginning of class, Wednesday, January 25th.
5. Next, double the size: you will remake the vessel 18" tall. However, you will replace the narrative on the vessel with a narrative structure of your choosing: an event in your life, a story you know, something that is happening in the world, etc. These narratives can be highly personal or comic, political or crass, poignant or creepy, specific or symbolic. Plan on using slip, terra sig, or underglazes to decorate the outside. Sgraffitto, paper resist, was resist or underglaze pencil drawing on bisque are all options. The imagery needs to be integrated into the form of the pot. A 'cut and paste' approach will not work. Think about image size, where it begins and ends, and what types of images best work where on the vessel.

Recommended green done date: Friday, Feb 3rd

Absolute green done date: Monday, Feb 6th, at noon.

!! ALTERNATE CHOICE !!

Find a mechanical object and replicate it according to the same rules listed above. See me for approval & recommendations.

TIMEFRAME:

January 25th: Mock up due

Feb 3rd: Piece recommended done

Feb 6th @ noon: Piece is 100% complete in the green state

Feb 10th: These pieces are bisque fired

Feb 15th: These pieces are glaze fired

Feb 22nd: These pieces are due, finished, and we will have a small crit.