

WHAT IS THAT?!

ORGANIC, NON-REPRESENTATIONAL PINCH FORMS
ART AND LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADES: 9-12 (could be adapted for 6-8)

BASED ON



Ursula von Rydingsvard (American, b.1942)

Lace Mountains, 1989

Cedar, Graphite

Museum Purchase: Weston Fund for Contemporary Art, 2004.1137

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OBJECTIVES

- Students will gain an understanding of organic, abstracted forms.
- Students will explore clay in the creation and glazing of an organic pinch form.
- Students will reflect and critique their final project.

CONCEPT

This project is the culmination of the pinch form unit. The students have explored attachments, textures, multiples, wall thickness and glazing, utilizing the pinch method. These techniques all work together to create a 'what is that' moment for the students, helping them to understand the organic, non-representational nature of many works of art. The students self-evaluate and reflect on the idea, construction and glazing processes. *Lace Mountains* is ideal for contemporary, abstract reflection with its textured surface, color variation and dynamic spaces.

MATERIALS

- Images of *Lace Mountains* and other contemporary, dimensional pieces
- Visual presentation of ideas and artworks
- Low-fire white clay (approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ lb per student)
- Clay boards with canvas covering (1 per student)
- Teacher and student made examples
- Pencils/paper
- Needle tools, rolling pins, sponges, slip, Q-tips

- Nature box of objects and forms found outside
- Images of abstract dimensional works (some with animal or nature inspirations), including Ana England, Brenda Tarbell and Ursula Von Rydingsvard
- Brushes, stains and glaze
- Water/containers, paper towels, water-filled spray bottles
- Plastic bags and plastic lettuce containers (for storing in-process pinch forms)
- A variety of textured materials
- Reflection and self-evaluation

VOCABULARY

Abstract – art that does not attempt to represent external reality, but seeks to achieve its effect using shapes, forms, colors, and textures.

Non-representational – art that does not rely on representation (does not look like anything from the 'real world').

Organic – shapes that are freeform, unpredictable and flowing, visually suggesting the natural world of animals and plants.

Written reflection- serious thought or consideration, committed to writing.

PROCEDURE

1. Students are introduced to the concept of organic, abstract, three-dimensional forms. Various artwork, including *Lace Mountains* is reviewed and discussed. The concept of natural-inspired and animal-inspired artwork is examined. 'What is that?' as it pertains to abstract art is also a part of the conversation.
2. Students sketch out an idea for their nature/plant/animal inspired abstract pinch form(s).
3. Students review examples and the criteria, with emphasis placed on the abstract, nature form.
4. Students explore and construct a pinch form with texture, additions, and at least one animal/plant characteristic, referring to their sketch. The goal is to create a unique, organic form that is interesting to view.
4. Students confirm that all attachments are scored and slipped. The areas are cleaned up (with damp sponges and Q-tips) and their name is included on the bottom.
5. The organic pinch pots have been bisque fired. Students choose stain, glaze or both for their forms, glazing to make certain to get glaze in all the cracks and crevices.
6. Students write a reflection about their abstract nature-inspired pinch forms. They complete a self-evaluation, recalling challenges and what they learned about clay and the construction and glazing processes.

ASSESSMENT

Final Project:

1. Goals of the pinch form(s):

- Natural object/animal used for inspiration
- Pinch forms
- 1 larger or 2 or more different, but related pieces
- At least 5" size
- Abstract, organic, (not realistic or identifiable)
- At least one texture
- At least one clay 'attachment'
- At least one animal 'characteristic'
- Name and bell # on the bottom of the pinch form

Detailed sketch first, with natural object or animal inspiration identified.

CLASS EXPERIENCE

2. Craftsmanship & Effort: Attention to detail in all the shapes, textures and attachments. Thoughtful application and placement of each piece. Skill is demonstrated in the glazing, enhancing the textural details. Time and effort is apparent in the final project.

3. Creativity/Visual Impact/Originality: The student demonstrated creative thinking throughout the design and production process. The organic, abstract pinch form(s) are unique in their attachments, textures, shape and inspiration. Careful consideration was given to the glazing. High visual appeal.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Visual Arts

Creating-

Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work

Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Presenting-

Standard 4: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.

English Language Arts

Standard 5- Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements to appropriately communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

RESOURCES

Ana England- anaengland.com/home.html

Cincinnati Art Museum- www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org

Brenda Tarbell- Google images/Pinterest

Organic forms- Ceramic Arts Daily <https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/>

YouTube videos (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CY_iAf8JAI)



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cedar, graphite

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