

THREE-PART ART: Main Art Lesson

PROJECT TITLE: Pinch Pots – Any Way, Shape or Form!

THEME: Four Visions: A Celebration of the Year of the Woman (A Cannon Art Gallery Exhibit)

AGE RANGE: K-12

PROJECT INTRODUCTION:

Students will use air-dry clay to create a pinch pot inspired by the ceramic works of Bianca Juarez. Students will focus on shape, balance, texture, color and design while considering connectivity to create their own unique vessels.

Four Visions: A Celebration of the Year of the Woman

Bianca Juarez creates hand built ceramic sculptural vessels based on personal narrative and universal myths. She is inspired by history, folk art and early cultures. She strives to invoke a universally shared emotional experience which reflects a sense of connectiveness.

Pottery was one of the first art forms explored by humans. There are many extinct cultures throughout the world that did not leave a written history, however we can learn about their daily life through the pottery they left behind. Hand building is one of the earliest forms of pottery. Pots can be constructed by hand from coils of clay, combining flat slabs of clay, or pinching solid balls of clay or some combination of these. Parts of hand-built vessels are often joined together with the aid of slip, a mixture of finely divided clay and water.



Bianca Juarez
Totem 1, 2020
Stoneware



Bianca Juarez
Minotaur, 2020
Stoneware



Bianca Juarez
Heraklion, 2019
Stoneware

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. What do these look like to you?
2. What captures and holds your attention in this work?
3. What do you notice first when you look at these? Why?
4. What shapes can you see in Bianca's work?

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5. Why do you think she used the shapes she did?
6. If you could touch these artworks, what do you think they might feel like?
7. Texture is how the surface of something feels or looks. What words would you use to describe the texture in her work?
8. What are some small objects around your home or classroom that could create texture?

ART PROJECT MATERIALS: (provided in Art Kit)

- Airdry clay Q: 3 - 1 oz. individual packets
- Wooden Stylus
- Watercolor Set
- Extra Watercolor Brush (#6)
- Texture Inspiration Sheet
- Parchment Paper

AT HOME MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Small container of water for smoothing out clay and using with watercolor
- Paper towel or cloth as needed for spills
- Tools for creating texture: Be creative! Look around your home and find objects that can create patterns or texture. i.e., kitchen utensils, found objects, end of a pen, a toothpick, Lego brick

ART PROJECT VOCABULARY:

Ceramics- the ancient art of making things of clay

Pottery- one of the first art forms explored by mankind

Potter- a person that makes pottery

Hand building- one of the oldest craft techniques in which objects are constructed entirely by hand

Pinch Pots- starting with a ball of clay the potter opens a hole into the ball and forms a bowl shape through a combination of stroking and pinching the clay

Stoneware- something made of clay that's fired at a high temperature

Slip- a mixture of finely divided clay and water used to cement clay parts together

Slab built- clay slabs are cut to shape and joined together using scoring and wet clay called slip. Slabs can be draped over or into forms, rolled around cylinders or built up into geometric forms

Texture- the feel, appearance, or consistency of a surface or substance

ART MAKING INSTRUCTIONS (step-by-step)

Step 1:

Collect and lay out the materials needed from your Art Kit and home or classroom onto a table or workspace. It is important to begin with a clean work surface and clean hands as the clay will pick up any debris. Lay out your parchment paper and organize your supplies onto the paper in front of you. Make sure that the water container is at the top of your work area so it won't spill. If you are working near your computer or Chromebook ensure that no materials will come into contact with them.

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Step 2:

You have a wooden stylus in your art kit to create texture and patterning with. What other objects that you have at hand, might make interesting texture tools? Look around your house or your classroom, is there anything you might use to create a fascinating texture with? Collect a few of these tools and lay them next to your workstation.

Step 3:

Begin with the three 1 oz. packets of air-dry clay. Open each packet and discard the wrappings. Notice the color and feel of the clay. What does it feel like? What does it remind you of? Take each individual piece of clay and knead it (use your fingers to roll, press, squeeze, and fold into itself) to soften each piece. Then, take all three individual pieces of clay and knead them together to create one larger piece of clay. Form into the shape of a ball (FIG. 1).

Step 4:

Take a moment to consider what you want your completed pinch pot that you create to look like. Try to imagine what your finished work of art might be.

- What shape will your pinch pot have?
- How many “sections” or bowl areas will you create in your pinch pot?
- Will it be taller, or wider?
- Will your pinch pot have a specific purpose or function?

Step 5:

Once you have an idea of the shape and form you want to create with your pinch pot, think about the shape of the clay you are starting from. Will beginning with the shape of a ball work best to start your pinch pot from? Will rolling it into an oblong shape work better? Or will forming it into a square or rectangle be best? Create the shape you want to begin with from your piece of clay.

Step 6:

Begin with your largest section first. Start shaping the first area by pressing your thumb into the clay to create a starting point (FIG. 2). If you are creating different sections in your pinch pot design, start your first section close to an edge of your clay form, leaving enough clay to one side of your form to create the other areas.

Step 7:

Using your fingers and thumbs together, begin to stretch the hole you created into a larger opening, expanding the sides to create the walls of your first section (FIG. 3). Be sure to press down into the bottom of the opening to spread out and flatten the thickness of the clay at the base. You want to push the excess clay from the bottom out, to help create your shape. The thickness of clay at the base should be similar to the thickness of clay of the walls. As the artist, decide what shape you want your first section to be and form it into that shape; circle, oval, curved, oblong, wavy edges etc. Continue to use your fingers and thumbs to press your first section into the shape you desire.

Step 8:

Once you are satisfied with the size and shape of your first section, move on to the area you left with thicker clay and create your next section, using the same technique to spread the clay; press your thumb into the clay and use your fingers and thumbs to shape the next area, making sure to use the clay at the base as well (FIG.4). As the artist, think about what shape you would like this section to be. How will it compliment your first area? Note that the

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new section, and any other sections you might create, will typically be smaller than the previous one you made.

Step 9:

Continue using the thicker area of clay to add as many sections as you would like in your work of art, repeating the same sculpting and shaping technique with your thumb and fingers (FIG.5 & 6). If at any time you are not satisfied with how your pinch pot is turning out, you can start over by kneading your clay, roll it back into a ball form and begin again.

Step 10:

When you are happy with the shape and sections of your pinch pot, you are ready to add texture to your artwork. Think about the look you would like to create by adding texture to your pinch pot. Refer to the attached texture inspiration sheet for ideas (page 15). Use the wooden stylus and found tools to experiment drawing, poking, pressing and indenting shapes and designs into your pinch pot (FIG.7). Consider patterning details and repetitive images. If there are areas of clay that are rough, and you want it more smooth, try using a dab of water and your finger to even it out, using very light pressure. Experiment and add as much or as little texture to your pinch pot creation as you'd like.

Step 11:

When you are finished adding texture, you are ready to add color to your pinch pot with your watercolor set and watercolor brushes. This is where your cloth or paper towel may come in handy! You do not have to wait for your pinch pot to dry to add color, you can apply the watercolor immediately after you are done shaping your pot and adding texture (FIG 8, 9, 10, 11.). Consider where you want to have color on your pinch pot. Dip one of your brushes into your cup of water and then use the wet brush to soften one of the colors in your watercolor set. Experiment by adding more water to lighten the color tone, or less to create a darker, denser color. Try mixing colors to create new colors. You can add color to a large area, or just to a small area using the different sized brushes provided. Apply as much or as little color as you would like. Rinse your brush between colors to keep the colors separate. And be sure to change your water if it becomes muddied. The watercolor will soak into the porous clay and dry. Investigate how the watercolor interacts with the texture and designs you created.

Step 12:

When you have finished painting your pinch pot, rinse and dry your watercolor brushes and put your art supplies back into your art kit. You will be using them again! Place your pinch pot in a safe area to dry. It is a good idea to keep the pot on the parchment paper so it doesn't stick to the drying surface. Drying time can take up to 48 hours depending on the thickness of the clay. To speed up the drying process, turn your pot upside down after the first day.

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. How would you describe the shape of your completed pinch pot?
2. How many "sections" or bowl areas does it have?
3. How will you use your pinch pot? For decoration or for storing items?
4. What did you learn about texture? And clay?
5. Do you like creating useful and functional art?
6. What other items in your home or classroom do you notice as useful and functional art?

ART SAMPLE PHOTOS:



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

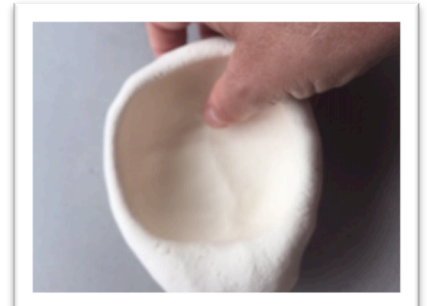


FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5



FIG. 6



FIG. 7



FIG. 8



FIG. 9

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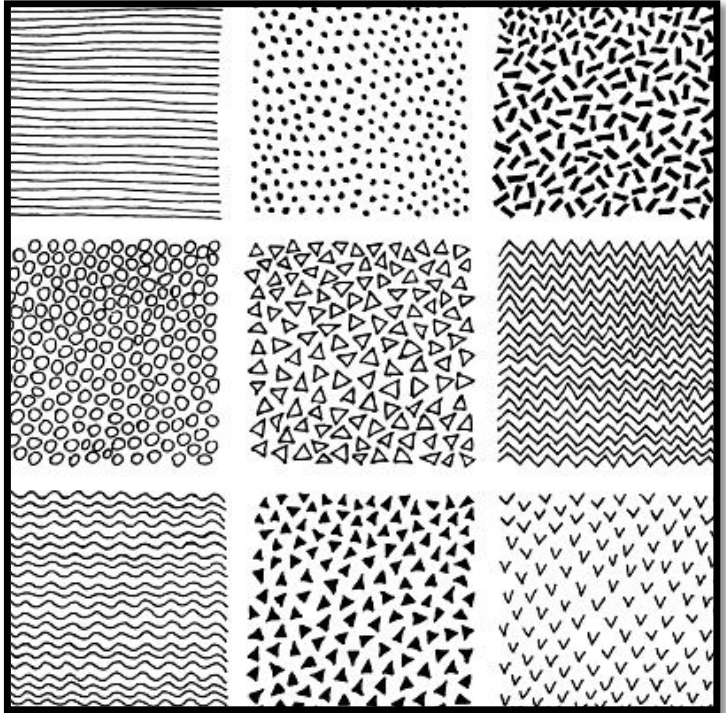
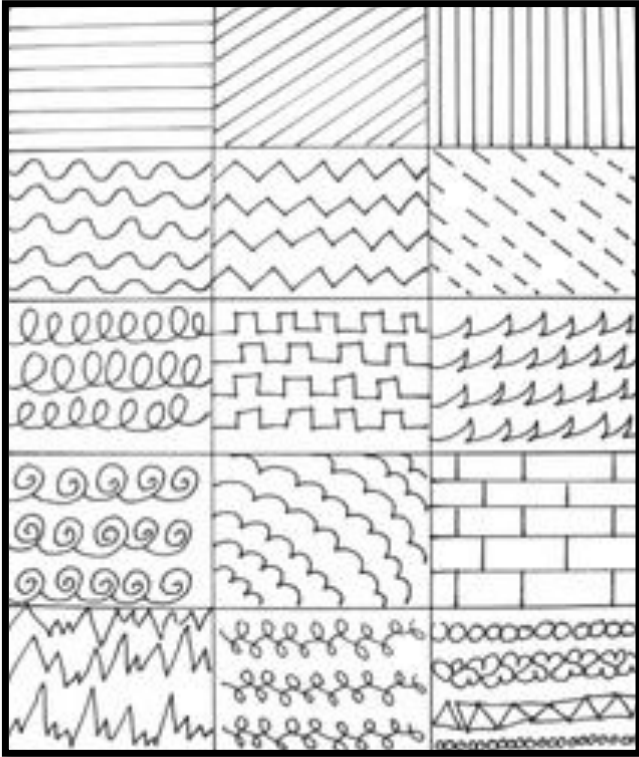


FIG. 10



FIG. 11

TEXTURE AND PATTERN EXAMPLES



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS:

Studio Habits of Mind

Observe: Studio Practice Table 1.2

- Ways to talk about the Habit
- Use your detective eyes
- Look closely
- Watch mindfully
- Take your time when you look
- Take it all in-let it soak in
- Walk your eyes back and forth over the surface like you were a tiny ant so you see everything

I Can Habits

- I can notice details in the world around me
- I can view my own work closely to find areas to keep and to improve
- I can examine other artists' artworks to get ideas

Studio Habits of Mind

Develop Craft: Studio Practice Table 1.2

- Take care of your environment
- Be a generous art classroom citizen
- Organize and care for tools, material, and the studio environment
- Respect yourself, others and your studio
- Do more than your share

I Can Habits

- I can take good care of my art tools, materials and artworks
- I can organize my workspace
- I can put everything away in the right places
- I can put my works away carefully, so they don't get damaged

RESOURCES:

<https://www.biancajuarez.com/>

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Pottery>