

Thinking with Clay

9th grade Visual Arts

"It should be evident, the brain that did that work. Not just the hands, not just the mold, not just the physical and technical aspect of the making." — Gabriel Orozco

In visual arts, you have discovered that art is something that begins inside yourself as a feeling, thought, or abstract idea that is transformed through a process or action to the physical world. In biology you have been studying abstract cellular processes, like cell growth and cell division. The cell is the structural and functional unit of all known living organisms. It is the smallest unit of an organism that is classified as living, and is sometimes called the building block of life. You will demonstrate this movement from the abstract to the physical by depicting a biological process through the creation of a clay sculpture. The sculpture should not be an exact representation of the process or structure but should be an abstraction or symbol of the process.

"I believe that a small action or a subtle gesture in life can change many, many things." — Gabriel Orozco

What rituals prepare artists to make the work they do? You will discover the performative and process-oriented aspects of working with clay as it becomes a ritual in your daily life. You will explore how this ritual affects your consciousness, documenting your thoughts throughout the process. Working with a partner you will create a schedule for your daily ritual with clay.

Process:

1. Choose an abstract process from biology to transform into a physical piece.
2. Collect images and create a series of sketches for peer critique. Consider texture and pattern in your piece.
3. Create a maquette(s) of your design ideas.
4. Review clay vocabulary and techniques (create a vocabulary list and definitions of techniques)
5. Once you have worked out any construction issues, move on to your final piece.
6. Monitor your studio time - a clay piece usually takes about 2 weeks to dry before bisque firing and should be dried slowly under plastic - uncover it for small amounts of time each day. Remember if you want to carve pattern or texture into your piece, it should be done when it is leather hard.

*Remember to work clay into your daily rituals. You may work on your pieces during flexes or after school, just let me know and sign studio sheet.

Assessment: See art rubric

<http://www.pbs.org/art21/artists/orozco/clip2.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/art21/artists/orozco/index.html#>

Thinking in Clay - Project Ideas

Cell Theory

Organelle Structure

Protein Synthesis

DNA Structure & Function
Photosynthesis

Cellular Respiration

Cell Reproduction

Mendelian Inheritance

Genetic Engineering
Evolution

Natural Selection

Diversity of Life & Classification

Human Systems