

CERAMICS II

Whimsical Teapot Design

Background:

You will be studying different types of teapots that have been used in various cultures throughout history. As part of this assignment you will critique examples of modern teapot designs and compare them to more traditional designs.

Objectives:

1. Learn about the history of teapots and how function relates to form
2. Design an original ceramic teapot that has multiple parts, complex construction, and uses a combination of hand-building and wheel-thrown techniques
3. Analyze and select the appropriate techniques for constructing the teapot and its parts
4. Design lid, handle, and spout as part of the overall design; teapot must be functional
5. Use additive and subtractive sculptural methods
6. Use aesthetically pleasing glazes and/or under glazes to enhance your teapot design
7. Demonstrate excellent craftsmanship in construction and glazing

Resources:

- The Artful Teapot <http://coffeetea.about.com/od/teaware/ig/Artful-Teapot/>
- Pinterest ~~[Pinterest.com/board/18/whimsical-teapot](#)~~ www.pinterest.com/HHS Ceramics
- Whimsical Teapots <http://www.artfulhome.com/servlet/Guild/EContent?Nac=8&N=8057>

Materials:

- Slip and scoring tools
- Modeling tools
- Small sponges
- Small board or plastic bat
- Underglazes and glazes
- Painting brushes
- Rolling pins
- Slab Roller
- Assorted medium size bowls

Directions:

1. Visit web sites listed above to see examples of well-crafted and imaginative teapots.
2. Brainstorm ideas; think of objects that are meaningful to you for inspiration on your teapot design.
3. Your design must incorporate a teapot body, lid, foot, strainer, spout, and handle.
4. Make several thumbnail sketches of ideas; select one to enlarge and sketch in more detail. Show teapot from all sides (front, back, side, and top).
5. Draw a plan to show how different hand building and wheel-thrown techniques are used in your design.
6. Make the body of your pot with slab, coil, pinch or wheel thrown method.
 - a. Clay must be of even thickness for strength and stability.
 - b. Each piece must be properly joined using slip and scoring.
7. Create the base or body of your teapot before adding other parts.
8. Form lid to fit into top of base and be integrated into the teapot design (without falling in or out).
9. Use a thin straw or wooden stick to make strainer holes in teapot body before attaching the spout.
10. Finish by adding interesting details that fit your chosen theme or style. Use additive and subtractive techniques to add details. Handle and spout must add to the theme and be part of the design.
11. Smooth all cracks and rough areas with a damp sponge before letting the clay dry.
12. Sign and date your finished work.
13. You may add underglaze designs when your teapot is leather hard.
14. Wrap any delicate parts in plastic to slow down drying and allow the clay to dry evenly.
15. Allow your teapot to become bone dry before placing in the kiln room for bisque firing.
16. After bisque firing, glaze and fire again. Select glazes for their aesthetic value. Glazes must be food safe.

Self-Assessment:

1. As you complete each step, use the attached Rubric to evaluate your work. Examine your work to be sure you have followed directions. On the Rubric, score yourself on how well you did on each step. If you need to make a correction, now is the time to do it.
2. Talk to your instructor whenever you have questions or concerns.