

PYOP CLAY PROJECT PLAN

NATURE'S ARMOR; HANGING BEETLE SCULPTURES

Designer: Bailie Benson



Sculpt a beetle (or other simple bug) to hang on a wall. Using a slump mold or bowl makes it easy! Add texture using various tools and even found objects.

SUPPLY LIST

CLAY

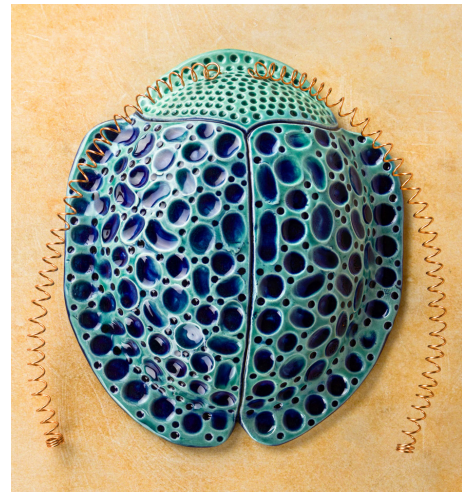
- Clay body of choice

TOOLS

- Rolling pins and guide sticks or a slab roller
- Clay cutting tools
- Canvas sheets
- Slip containers and scoring tools
- Sponges
- Modeling or loop tools
- Wire brushes
- Slump molds or bowl
- Newspaper, tape or found objects to drape
- Plastic card

GLAZE

- CC108 China Sea
- EL119 Burnished Steel
- OS476 Black



DIRECTIONS

1. Begin by rolling out and compressing a slab of clay large enough to fit over the top of the hump mold or bowl. Lay the slab of clay



on top of the hump mold and compress down around the form using a sponge. Cut the excess clay off around the hump. Remove the body of the beetle from the hump mold or bowl.



2. Lay a small bit of excess clay over the front of the hump mold or bowl to form the "head" section. Compress and cut to the desired size and style. Scratch and attach the body and head together. Roll out a coil about the thickness of a pencil to create a separation accent and scratch and attach this where the body attaches to the head.



3. Using your choice of carving tool, carve in the sections where the wings separate from the rest of the shell. Don't forget to use reference photos if needed. Roll three thick coils and shape to form the horns of the rhino beetle. If the horns are

exceptionally thick, hollow them out with carving tools and poke a hole in the head underneath

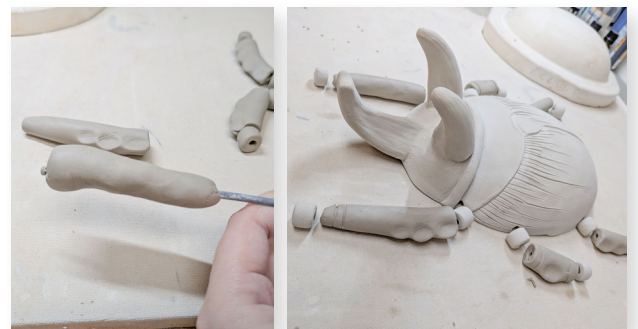


where they'll attach. Scratch and attach the horns to the head and smooth out the attachment point with a finger. Carve in

detail like ridges on the body and horns. Punch holes in the side of the body where the legs will attach.



4. To create the leg pieces, roll twelve balls of clay slightly smaller than half an inch. Spear the clay balls onto one of the wire rods from the bead rack and gently roll the bead on the table while on the wire rod to create slightly larger holes to compensate for shrinkage in drying and firing so the shapes can be glaze fired on the rods. For the larger parts of the leg, roll 6 coils about half an inch thick and between one and two inches in length. Repeat the bead process from earlier in this step. Pinch out sections of one side of the bead to create interest and shape.



5. Allow clay to fully dry and bisque fire to cone 04.

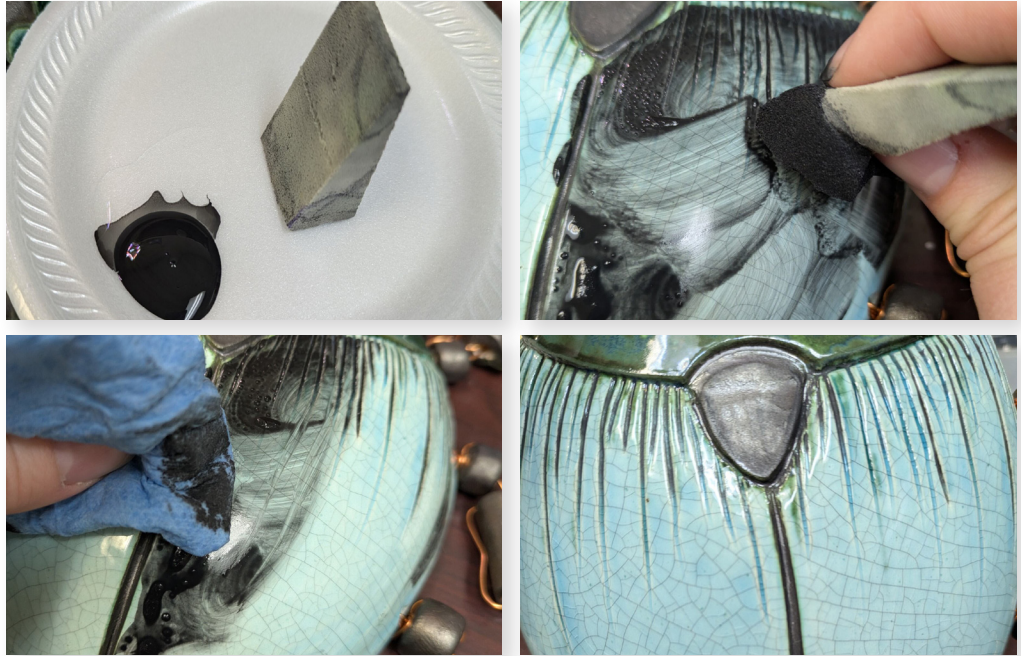
GLAZING DIRECTIONS

1. Using a soft fan brush, apply three coats of CC108 China Sea to the body of the beetle, halfway down the horns, and in the indents of the long bead leg pieces. Allow glaze to dry between coats. Apply three coats of EL119 Burnished Steel to the unglazed areas of the beetle and leg beads, and overlapping the CC108 China Sea halfway up the horns, on the legs, and the middle section of the body.

2. Allow glaze to fully dry. Thread the leg beads onto the bead rack. Fire to cone 06.

3. Antique the crackle glaze using a coat of OS476 Black and immediately wipe back using a damp paper towel.

4. Using about 24 inches of copper wire on each leg, thread the beads onto the wire. Use wrapping to keep the beads in place and position the leg shape. Attach through the holes on the main body. Clip off any excess wire that's left over.



MEET THE MASTER



Kate MacDowell

Inspired by the environment, Kate's ceramic sculptures feature insect or animal motifs that are full of detail. This shows the extent to which she observes the world and its creatures around her. Kate's art inspires people of all ages to see nature, animals, and insects in new and enlightening ways.

