

PYOP CLAY PROJECT PLAN

WHALE TALES: SCULPTING STORIES IN CLAY

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Dive into creativity while sculpting a whimsical whale bud vase! Use handbuilding techniques to create a functional work of art. Use this project as inspiration to create vases in other sea life shapes.

SUPPLY LIST

CLAY

- Clay body of choice

FOUNDATIONS®

- FN009 Black
- FN001 White
- FN018 Bright Blue
- FN019 Dark Blue
- FN003 Orange
- FN002 Yellow



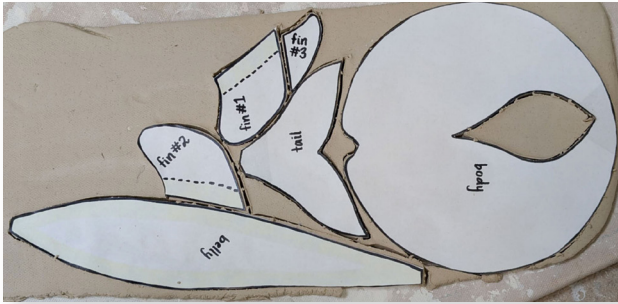
BRUSHES AND TOOLS

- Clay cutting tools
- Canvas sheets
- Slip containers and scoring tools
- Rib
- Needle tool
- Sponges
- Modeling or loop tools
- Rolling pins or a slab roller
- [Whale template](#)

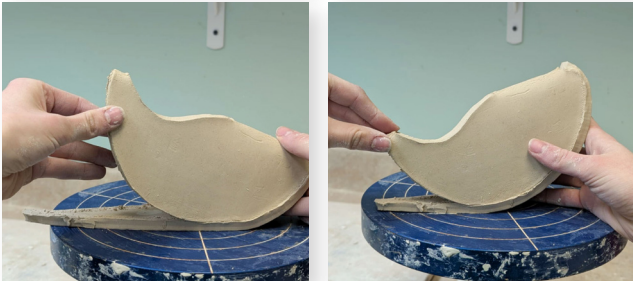
DIRECTIONS

BUILDING

1. Cut template pieces from a 1/4" slab, compressed with a rib.



2. Assemble the form by folding the body in half and pressing it down into the belly, starting at the lips and rocking it back into the tail. Slip and score all attachments.



3. Use your finger to compress any cracking over the folded slab. Weld seams using your finger or a wooden modeling tool.



4. Slip and score to attach the tail and weld the seams with your finger or a wooden modeling tool.



5. Attach fins by slipping and scoring along beveled edges. Not every species of whale has a dorsal fin!



DIRECTIONS

BUILDING

6. Create a mouth by attaching a coil and welding it down. Some species of whale have textured ventral pleats.



7. Add eyes and cut the blowhole/stem holder with a straw. Customize your whale, then dry slowly to mitigate cracking caused by the tension between a dry exterior and a damp interior. Fire to cone 04.



GLAZING

1. Map out the color pattern for an orca on the whale using a pencil.
2. Apply 3 coats of FN009 to the black portions, and 3 coats of FN001 White in the areas opposite of the black.
3. The whale eye should have three coats of FN001 as a base.
4. Using the back of a paintbrush, apply a dot of FN009 Black to create the pupil of the eye.
5. Apply three coats of FN018 Bright Blue to all the birds, avoiding the beak/feet areas and chest.
6. Apply three coats of FN001 White to the chest of each of the birds.
7. Use 3 coats of FN019 Dark Blue to add color accents to the wings and tail.
8. The beaks and feet should be a 3 coat base of FN003 Orange with accents of FN002 yellow as highlights.
9. The bird eyes are three coats of FN009 Black.
10. Allow glaze to fully dry, stilt and fire to cone 06.

ADDITIONAL ADAPTATION - BIRDS

Attach birds to demonstrate *commensalism*; a symbolic relationship where one species benefits while the other is not affected.

1. Start by cutting toes into two small, flattened balls of clay and attaching them to the whale by slipping and scoring.



2. Pinch a larger ball of clay into a bird shape, cut wings and define features with modeling tools. Firmly attach the bird onto the feet by slipping and scoring.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Here are some accommodations that can support a diverse range of learners for this project:

Modified Instructions: Provide clear, step-by-step written and visual instructions to help students who need additional guidance. This can include visual aids like diagrams or video tutorials for the hand-building techniques.

Extra Time: Offer extended class time or individual sessions for students who may need more time to complete their sculptures.

Peer Support: Pair students with peers for collaborative support, allowing for shared ideas and guidance during the creation and glazing process.

Alternative Glazing Techniques: For students with fine motor difficulties, offer alternative glazing methods, like dipping, which may be easier to control.

Sensory Accommodations: For students with sensory processing challenges, offer a quiet, distraction-free area to work to minimize sensory overload during the creation and firing processes.

Visual and Color Choices: Allow flexibility with the color schemes for students who may have color vision deficiencies, ensuring they can select shades that work best for them.

Modified Assessment Criteria: Adjust the evaluation rubric to emphasize progress and effort for students who may struggle with certain technical aspects but show growth and creativity in their process.

MEET THE MASTER



Beate Kuhn

Renowned German ceramic artist celebrated for her distinctive and innovative work in ceramics. Her art often focused on abstract human and animal figures, creating playful, expressive sculptures. She helped the world to see ceramics as a fine art as opposed to a craft and she believed in the power of ceramics as an art form that could communicate stories and feelings.



“Working with clay is like having a conversation—every shape tells a story, and the story keeps growing as you go.” – Beate Kuhn