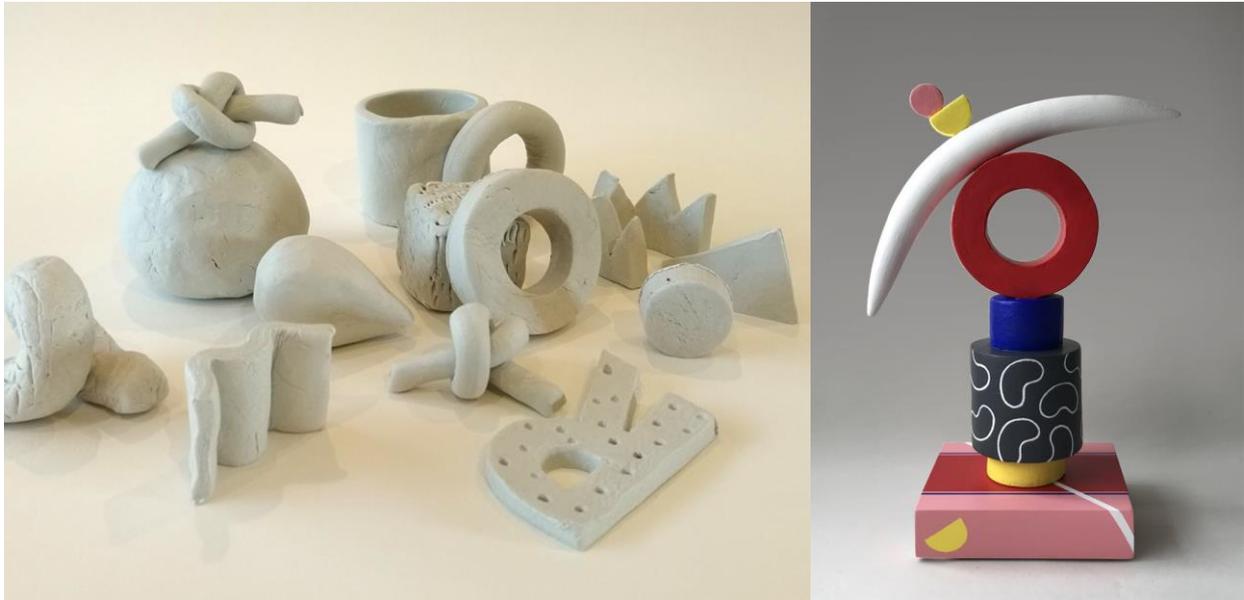


LEARNING RESOURCE



Patricia Volk 'Voyage'

Playful Clay Assemblages

This activity is inspired by the painted ceramic assemblages by artist Patricia Volk and is suitable for both adults and children.

Clay sculptures are frequently made by combining a number of separate pieces together. Patricia Volk's sculpture entitled 'Voyage' features an array of clay components playfully stacked and balanced together.

This resource shows you how to manipulate clay in different ways to create an inventive range of abstract forms and shapes. These will then form the building blocks for your own playful clay assemblage.

What will I need for this project?

Air-drying clay

Clay knife or blunt craft knife

Range of tools to texture your clay (pencil, comb, or other textured item from around the house)

Pot of water

Wire or barbecue skewer

Rolling pin or cardboard tube

Watercolour or acrylic paints and a paintbrush for decorating (this is for the second stage of the project)

Greaseproof paper or wipe clean mat to work on

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Step one:

Prepare your workspace and gather your materials. It is now time to start creating clay shapes and forms! Start by rolling a ball of clay in the palm of your hands to create a smooth sphere.



Step two:

Now flatten the sphere into a disk. Use a craft knife or cookie cutters to cut out a round shape. Try cutting a smaller circular shape out of the centre.



Step three:

Create more clay spheres and turn them into other three-dimensional forms such as cones or cubes. Add texture to some of your forms using a pencil, comb or other textured object.



Step four:

Roll out a flat slab of clay using a rolling pin. Try cutting out unusual shapes such as letters or try zigzag or wavy edged shapes.



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Step five:

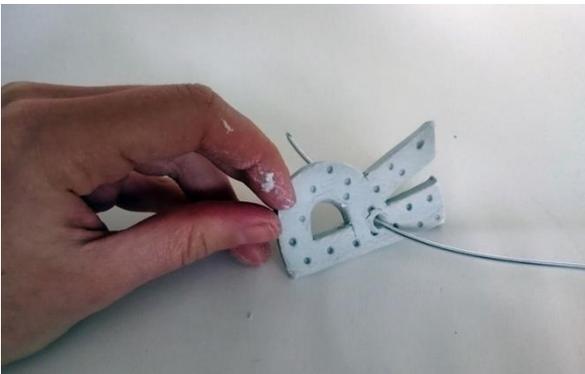
Roll out a sausage shape (this is called a clay coil). Try making a new form by bending your coil and joining the two ends together. Try making other wiggly or curly shapes using clay coils.



Step seven:

Continue building forms until you have enough. You could try twisting, puncturing or curving simple forms and shapes to make variations.

Make a hole through each clay form using a BBQ skewer or wire and wiggle it around until you've made a hole quite a bit wider than the wire/skewer.



Step six:

Keep on building a range of clay forms and adding texture to them until you have a small collection. Try balancing them on top of each other and arranging them to create interesting stacks.



Step eight:

Allow your clay forms to dry completely (about 24 hours) and then paint them using acyclic paints or watercolour. Try using different colours or patterns.

Finally connect up your forms using a wire or skewer to create your assemblage. You could alternatively use strong glue once the pieces are completely dry.

