1) Fine Art vs. Craft
2) Intro to Ceramics

What is the difference between "fine art" and "crafts?"

Fine art

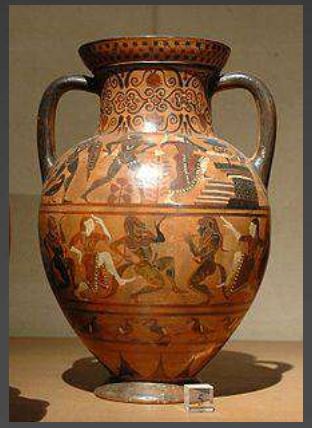
Henri Matisse. *The Dance,* 1910

Purposes:

- to document history, culture, religious customs
- to inspire emotional response
- social commentary
- to show importance: portraits, sculptures
- usually signed by the artist in some ways

Typically, artist doesn't know what it will look like in the end - it changes while being worked on. More “intuitive”

Crafts



Diomedes and Polyxena, from the Etruscan amphora of the Pontic group, ca. 540–530 BC.

- "functional" or "utilitarian" - has a defined purpose/use
- sometimes simply decorative
- doesn't typically inspire emotional response
- precise, highly-skilled work that relies on specific techniques
- rarely signed by the artist
- may be mass-produced

Pre-determined: the artist generally knows what it will look like in the end.

Fine art or Craft?

A Hopi basket

by Takahiro Yede (Japan)

Fine art or Craft?

by G. Steven Jordan

Fine art or Craft?

The Two Fridas, Frida Kahlo

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Fine art or Craft?

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Eugene Delacrois, 1830,
Liberty Leading the People

Fine art or Craft?

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Fine art or Craft?

Louis Comfort Tiffany

Fine art or Craft?

An Introduction to
Clay & Ceramics

What *is* clay?

Clay = earth + water

Silica - an essentia d glazes. When melted, becomes glass.

Clay can also contain:

Grog – ground up, fired clay or sand. Makes clay feel gritty.

Iron oxide (red clay only)

Other minerals

More basic clay vocabulary

kiln - super hot oven where clay is fired

cone - temperature at which clay or glaze needs to be fired. Lower numbers are hotter (i.e., cone 4 is hotter than cone 6)

vitrifying / vitrification- clay particles melt together to become glass-like and less porous

Earthenware - fires at relatively low temperature (cone 4-6, about 1800-2000 degrees F). Porous when fired.

(other kinds of clay include porcelain and stoneware)

Stages of Clay

1. **Slip** - watered down clay; muddy
2. **Plastic** - workable stage; can be recycled; can join to other pieces
3. **Leather Hard** - stiff and will hold its shape; join to other pieces; carve into; recycle
4. **Greenware** or **bone dry**; very fragile; can be recycled
5. **Bisqueware** - fired once in kiln; *cannot* be recycled; ready to be glazed
6. **Glazeware** - second fire-low fire; *cannot* be recycled

Silica dust is harmful when inhaled!

Silicosis - causes swelling in lungs, shortness of breath. Severe cases may need lung transplant.

Carcinogen - can cause cancer

How do we keep our studio safe?

Safety & Clean-up Protocols

* Sand outside
* Clean up with damp rag or sponge
* Clean sponges often (squeeze under the faucet)
* *Never* sweep up or vacuum clay dust
* Do not blow on clay dust

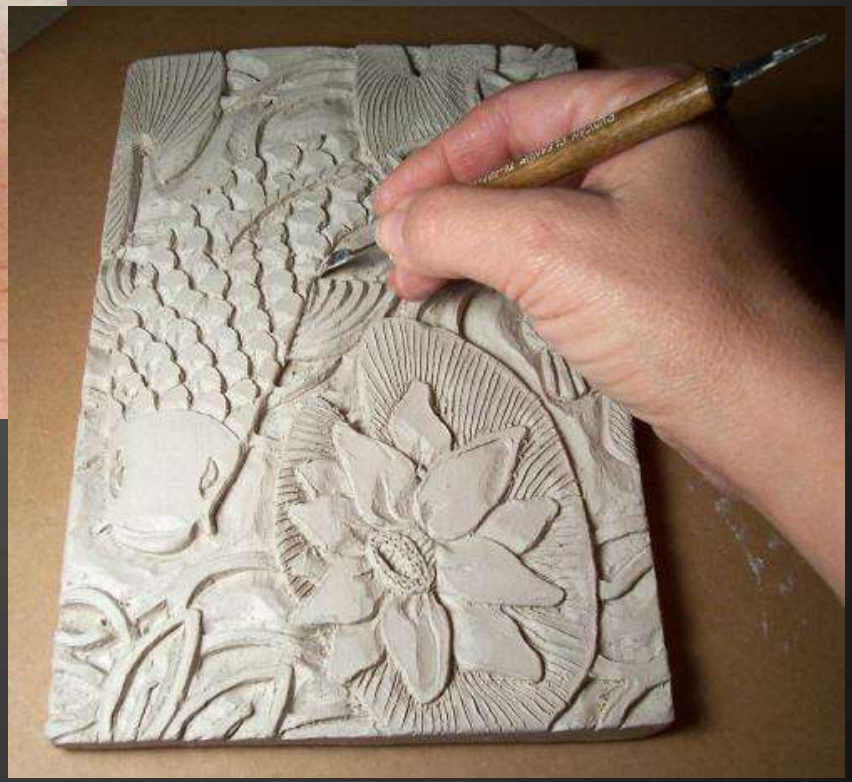
Handbuilding with Clay

Slab

Coil

Pinch

surface treatment: texture



Today's mission:

* Become more familiar with clay studio & protocols

* Experiment with slab, pinch, and coil