

GRADE 10

Sculpture Term 1 2022

MAKE A SCULPTURE INSPIRED BY STEPHANIE KILGAST

Your sculpture must be made out of a found waste product – old can, plastic bottle etc.

Your sculpture must raise awareness of the fragility of our ecosystem/the ocean/our planet.



Prepare your clay by taking it out of the packet and kneading it until it's smooth and soft. This is called 'conditioning'. This makes the clay pliable and easier to shape.

Smoothing The Clay.

Use a small sponge or a little water on your fingers to smooth out any imperfections as you go.

As your clay dries and shrinks small cracks can appear, don't panic. You can fix this by mixing a small amount of clay with water called 'slip' making a paste consistency. Once the clay piece is completely dry fill in any cracks using the slip and leave to dry once more.

Once the clay is dry any rough edges can be sanded down using a fine sandpaper or nail file.

Joining/Adding Clay.

To join or add clay you need to 'score' and 'slip' for a strong bond. To do this you need to score both of the surfaces with a sculpting tool (a toothpick makes a great alternative). This gives the clay something to adhere to. Add a little slip to each of the scored areas then join together using your fingers or sculpting tool.

Beginner tips for air dry clay:

- Use wax paper.
- Put lotion on your hands first.
- Do not make the clay too thin.
- Use toothpicks.
- Remove imperfections with water.
- Flip your project over during drying.
- Use the oven to speed up drying time.
- Store clay in an airtight container.

MIX IN SOME PVA GLUE

Sometimes when sculpting delicate pieces, you want the clay itself to be stronger, so here's where the PVA glue comes in! I like to use this technique to strengthen thin edges, very fragile parts like fingers or ears. PVA glue (or white Elmer's glue) holds those tiny paper fibers firmly together when it dries. You can incorporate some PVA glue directly into the small chunk of clay and knead it. Or mix the glue with water and use this mixture instead of clear water while sculpting.

