ALL ABOUT CLAY

Types of Clay

- Red Earthenware Clay
- Porcelain
- Stoneware Clay

Construction Techniques

- Coiling
- Hand Building
- Wheel Throwing

Firing

* Stoneware clay is fired at 2250 degrees Fahrenheit!

Clay is fire baked in a kiln. The first step is bisque firing, which hardens the clay. Then the artist may color the surface with glaze and fire it again.

Verbs

These are action words we can use to describe working with clay. You can try these at home with Play-doh, too!

- Squish
- Smooth
- Pull
- Pinch
- Squeeze
- Roll

Scavenger Hunt

There are objects all around us that are made of clay. Can you find the following things in your home?

- Vase
- Mug
- Plate
- Piggy Bank
- Bowl
- Teapot
- Tiles

Clay has been used by artists for many years and has a rich tradition. From 1943-1963 the artists in this exhibition were especially inspired by clay. The contributions of these artists continues to inspire other generations!

THE ARTISTS IN THIS EXHIBITION ARE FROM:

- ARGENTINA: Fontana
- ITALY: Melotti
- SPAIN: Picasso, Miró
- UNITED STATES: Noguchi

Lucio Fontana, 1899 - 1968

“My father was a good sculptor. I wanted to be a sculptor, I would have liked to have been a painter, too, like my grandfather...”

Fontana was painter and sculptor. He was born in Argentina and moved to Italy. Sometimes he made holes or slashes in the canvas or clay to change the way we see the surface. In his sculptures you can see the lumpy textures that reflect his appreciation of chance and accidents.

Lucio Fontana, Harlequin (Arlecchino), 1948, Polychrome ceramic, 21 7/8 x 13 7/8 x 9 7/8 in. (55.5 x 35 x 25 cm), Private Collection, Switzerland, Photo: Sahra Fuis, Köln.

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Nasher Sculpture Center

Isamu Noguchi, 1904 - 1988
“Appreciate the moment.”

Noguchi was a sculptor, designer, architect and craftsman. He was born in Los Angeles in 1904. He traveled to Paris where he met other artists. In Mexico City he painted murals, and in Japan he designed gardens and fountains. His travels influenced the work he created.

Fausto Melotti, 1901 - 1986
“Art is an angelic, geometric feeling. It addresses the intellect, not the senses.”

Melotti was born in Italy. He used plaster, clay and metal to create sculptures. His art was inspired by and combined many forms of art. Melotti was influenced by music and tried to create rhythm and harmony in his artwork. He also enjoyed architecture and created small theaters made of clay.

Pablo Picasso, 1881 - 1973
“When I am living in the country, I never think of painting anymore. It’s sculpture that interests me. For example, it rains the ground gets wet, I pick up some mud – it becomes a little statuette.”

Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain. His father, José Ruiz Blasco was a painter. Picasso began to draw at a young age. In his lifetime he created over 20,000 works of art including paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, ceramics, theater sets and costumes. Can you find other examples of Picasso’s artwork in the garden and galleries?

Joan Miró, 1893-1983
“Everything you can imagine is real.”

Miró was born in Barcelona, Spain. He had his first solo art show when he was 25. He created paintings, sculptures, collages, murals, sets and costumes for the ballet. He had a great imagination and could see the possibilities in everyday objects. Can you find other examples of Miró’s sculptures in the garden?