

3-D Foundations: Problem 4

Objects and Culture

Part 1 & Part 2 Due Monday Nov. 25, Part 3 Due Wed. Dec 4

ART 133 M & W 3:15-5:55

Instructor: Joe Hedges



Problem Statement

For this problem we will begin by considering the myriad of kinds and functions of objects humans have created in societies throughout history. You will create three objects: a copy one object from another culture, a copy of an object from your current culture (an art object or “everyday” object), and finally apply your research to create an original work of art. You will learn to think critically about objects, sculpture, and will gain some technical facility with clay processes.

Part 1:

You will use the library to research one native culture. First, research and describe the culture including language and belief systems. Then, find five images of objects the culture has produced. For each object, list the function or purpose of the object, the date it was created, and the material or materials used. Select one of these objects and copy it using clay and other materials if necessary. The object does not have to be rendered to scale and should be no more than one foot tall. What kinds of objects appeal to you the most and why? E-mail me digital images of your 5 objects on or before class on **Monday, November 12** with the subject “Five Objects” (w/o the quotes). Define these words and keep them in your sketchbook or notebook: **Art-Object, Culture, Subculture, Ritual, Symbolism, Allusion, Narrative, Primitivism, Exoticism, Ethnography, Material Culture, Cultural Appropriation.** *Part 1 & Part 2 Due Monday Nov. 25.*

Part 2:

Next, we will consider the products of contemporary art and design. How are objects created today? What purposes do they serve? Find five objects from contemporary (modern) life or art that you enjoy formally. (That means, the shape and appearance, material, texture, etc.) Photograph (or use google image search), or draw each object. List the function or purpose of the object and the material or materials used and describe briefly why it appeals to you. These objects may or may not be art objects. Select one of these objects and render it using clay (the object does not have to be rendered to scale). *Part 1 & Part 2 Due Monday Nov. 25*

Part 3:

Finally, based on your observations create at least one new object that investigates the barrier between functional objects and art objects. Your object (or objects):

- may have spiritual, magical, or ritual purposes (real or imagined) and/or
- may reference more utilitarian objects such as tools (navigation, time-keeping, time-travel, scientific observation, etc.)
- must have at least one part made of clay and at least one other material besides clay.
- may respectfully reference another culture or time and place.
- may have some personal meaning.
- should probably be relatively simple, but remember that “simple” does not mean easy!

Bring to Class: A plastic bag or bags to keep your clay wet, simple tools for working with clay such as a dull knife, a spoon, fork, brushes, or whatever seems to work for you. An old towel and a couple sponges (big and small) for cleaning your hands and cleaning up your mess.