
Multicultural Potters Wheel Demonstration Program

I use the potters wheel as a tool to generate large scale pottery forms. I touch on many cultures during the a 45 - 60 minute wheel demonstration program. Students will not all be making a piece to take home but will be part of a group effort.

The Demonstration Program will address many cultures or be curriculum specific. So many stories and history of the various cultures are told through the clay pot. This program will address how these 'stories' manifests in the various cultures and how each culture has design characteristics that are specific to that culture.

The Wheel program is a great catalyst to get connected to the visual and design language of many cultures at one time, as well as, an inspiration for their 3d work to follow during the rest of the year.

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- ◆ **Some cultures/themes that can be addressed in the curriculum:**
- ◆ **Large vessels making - i.e. Greek pottery, Korean coil techniques and working in sections.**
- ◆ **Greek pottery- symbols, drawing, and mythology**
- ◆ **Egyptian canopic jars**
- ◆ **Relief designs on pottery**
- ◆ **African pottery**
- ◆ **Native American pottery – stories through patterns, symbols and imagery**
- ◆ **Japanese ceramics: form and function of the Japanese aesthetic.**
- ◆ **Latin American pottery**
- ◆ **Asian**

I can comfortably teach a maximum of four - five 40 - 50 minutes session a day. Many schools now prefer 4 extended (one hour) classes which allows me to go deeper into the subject matter.

- ◆ This program can allow for a hands on participatory element depending on the size of the class and the time. Depending on the size of the group, the students can actually assist in creating a a group signature piece on the potter's wheel. They come up one at a time and work with my supervision.
- ◆ Using what I have shown them in the process of working in clay and discuss its cultural diversity they now have an idea about how to design the pot. Patterns and symbols are brought to light as there similarities and meanings are discussed and demonstrated. Students actually do all the surface decoration and exploring patterns and symbols by

inscribing directly on the vessel. Signing and personalizing the vessel allows them to have the experience of drawing in clay. In a creating a signature piece they will all explore and create/draw/inscribe their own symbol/patterns on the freshly thrown vessel.

- ◆ Students are asked to share their individual experience of handling the clay on the wheel. The school may want to film the students as they experience the clay and help create a group piece.
- ◆ Prior to this demo I have shown them the process of working in clay and discuss its cultural diversity. I talk about the process in light of how an artist designs a piece of art/pottery and the significance in light of how an artists thinks with regards to all disciplines in life. The elements of design are demonstrated and discussed, ie *foot shoulder, neck , lip...*
- ◆ I will be putting additional attention on discussing the nature of the creative process and how it relates to all disciplines. References will be made to the form and function with regards to ceramic art and how the diversity of the various cultures is manifested in the ceramic art i.e. Greek, Native American, Asian, and African...).
- ◆ Any finished signed pieces/photos can be showcased in your library or hallway showcase as an example for students to enjoy the connection to their creative work and as witness to the fruition of the ceramic process. I also welcome you to use the signed piece in an arts auction as many schools have successfully done to raise money for the future arts programs.
- ◆ The wheel program is very inspiring and educational to all those involved. I bring samples of actual finished work, posters, visuals, and tend to work very large on the potter's wheel making it easy for everyone to see. I would like the arts teacher to let the students know that all question regarding my life as an artist are welcome during the demonstration. I will supply all the clay and materials necessary for each demonstration for all the days.