



Japanese Tea Pots (Tea Pots to Honor)

Grade Level: 9th - 12th Grade

- Art Content Standard:**
1. Explain how and why visual art forms develop in specific cultural, historical, social, and political contexts.
 2. Explain and defend their artistic decisions using appropriate vocabulary.
 3. Apply multiple solutions in a work of art.
 4. Demonstrate ability to develop an idea/theme in visual form.

Vocabulary/ Concepts:

- chakai – informal tea ceremony
- chaji - highly structured gathering rituals, including the serving of a meal in multiple courses, an intermission in a garden, and then a solemn tea ceremony followed
- various clay construction methods including slab, coil, potter's wheel (demonstration)
- kiln
- glaze techniques
- texture/sgraffito and other basic clay techniques
- discuss “food safe” in clay

Background/ Key Ideas: Japanese culture promotes strongly the idea of being one with nature and those around you. Harmony in nature all its forms come from organization, aesthetics, and celebration of ones religious/cultural beliefs. The casual or formal serving of tea to one or more guests highlights the ritual of a tea ceremony; it is a celebration of life in every way. One of the many parts of a tea ceremony is the choosing of the teapot and service wear. All parts of the tea ceremony are unified in color and design, from what the host wears, the flowers on the table, the design of the garden, etc. It is with that in mind that students create a ceremonial tea service for an honored guest – a master artist, a favorite teacher, etc.

Materials: Clay
Slab Roller (clay dowels to machine depending on budget)
Clay Tools (free to expensive depending on budget)
Tag Board
Masking Tape
Sketchbook
Colored Pencils
Glazes / Underglazes
Pencil
EZ-Cut Linoleum (optional)
Linoleum Tools (optional)
Sharpie Markers

- Procedure:**
- 1) Begin with presentation and examples of Japanese and modern whimsical teapots for service. Discuss unified design, and symbols to celebrate and honored person.
 - 2) Students brainstorm (to themselves, if advanced, or as a class) symbols that represent a person (encourage students to stay away from trite, expected ideas... something special about that person that everyone might not know) .
 - 3) Develop sketch in sketchbook from two views, profile and bird's eye, add color to further describe (must include at least three symbols) .
 - 3a) If I have students develop symbols on EZ-cut linoleum to be stamped into clay then students prepare plan to be transferred via graphite/pencil.
 - 4) Students can make tag board mock-up if done in slab method OR discuss shape of base if coil and how you determine base shape (do we trace butter tub lids, square use a ruler, etc.).
 - 5) Begin construction of sides to be raised on day five or six (stamp into clay while flat on table).
 - 6) Final details added.
 - 7) Color with "Concept" glazes after firing.
 - 8) Class tea ceremony with written thank you to honored guest.
 - 9) Written critique of peer work (optional).

Assessment: Teacher created rubric (see hand-outs)
Teacher assessment of written "thank-you"
Assessment of preliminary sketches

Enrichment Activities: Students will develop a set of cups on potter's wheel to accompany tea pot, Students can write invitation to honored guest, could take further by decorating room for even and have students take charge, or have as an after school even for staff appreciation, endless opportunities.

Resources: http://www.asia-art.net/japanese_tea.html
several "YouTube" demonstrates of a tea ceremony
<http://www.chinatownconnection.com/japanese-tea-ceremony.htm>

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Samples of work by students who selected artists as their "honored guests." Each student created a tea pot, tea cups, and/or serving plates for the tea ceremony related to the individual they were honoring.

Japanese Tea Ceremony

A strong part of Japanese culture is the ritual of sharing tea among friends. In Japan, tea is more popular than coffee. Tea not only is a drink but a very serious ritual that celebrates friendship, oneness with nature, and the art of hosting a party.

For many years people have known the healing power of tea. Green and black tea actually have many health benefits. Drinking tea calms the nerves, warms your “insides”, and can actually help to curb appetite. As part of the traditional ceremony, a very special and ornate tea set is used. The host of the tea ceremony goes to great lengths to choose the theme and type of tea used. Many of the “hosts” of the tea ceremony actually are trained for many years to make the tea and prepare for the ceremony.

In Japanese culture, the physical tea represents the yin and yang of society (harmony with nature). The water (yin) is using the greatest natural resource; and the heat (yang) is using man’s power to prepare the tea.

Think about what rituals your family or culture has that may seem different to other cultures?

Assignment:

Create from coil or slab construction (see demo in class) a teapot that could be used in a traditional tea ceremony. Look to create a theme or interesting design, texture, and additions to your work. We will look at several examples to help inspire you. The work will be finished with color and food safe glaze. The pot must be usable in our tea ceremony at the end of the assignment. We will have a tea ceremony where you will entertain staff members with your tea and teapot!

BONUS ALERT! If you bring in a special tea and prepare to entertain teachers you will receive three academic bonus points!

BONUS ALERT 2! Interested in learning the potter’s wheel? You may make two small cups that would tie into your theme and that could be used with your tea ceremony. Also worth three academic bonus points!

Assessment:

Three sketches of teapot (sketchbook) – 10 points

Teapot - 10 points

Bonus – 6 points available