

The history of story telling in clay....

- Clay has been used as a medium to tell stories for thousands of years. From Ancient Greek vessels to contemporary pedestal pieces by David Stabley. Clay has been a successful media to tell stories and convey meaning to viewers.
- Artists and cultures across time have depicted their surroundings, historical events, wars, and myths on the surfaces of their ceramics.

In this lesson you will...

- Learn about the contemporary ceramist David Stabley and his work.
- Use and apply the techniques of low relief sculpture.
- Develop an original story telling plate, working in the style of the artist.
- Apply new methods or non-conventional methods and techniques when applying surface decoration.

What will you do?

- You will develop a plate that tells a story about an event in your life, a vacation spot, an imaginary place, a dream, etc.
- You will develop sketches and a story-telling plate working in the style of the artist, using his surface applications and decorations.

About the artist:

- Sells his works mainly through shops and galleries across the United States.
- His work is locally displayed and for sale in Lawrence and Kansas City.
- David Stabley comes from a printmaking background.
- His work is very narrative (tells stories).

How would you describe his artwork?

- Whimsical, fun, animated.
- Colorful & playful.
- Imaginative.
- Detailed.
- Looks like it is illustrated.
- Looks like it is a drawing or painting, verses clay.
- Surface treatment or finishing.

How does he work and how is it special?

- Applies new and nontraditional medium.
- no other artists work in the same manner.
- Uses glazes, acrylic paints, and patinas (a metallic finish).
- Build-up of layers of paint.
- Uses glaze and paint to accent.
- Uses the paint to show gradient... depth and shadow.
- Extensive use of line...

What is the difference between the real world and fantasy or dream worlds?

What is Surrealism?

Artist Statement by David Stabley:

Ceramics has always been a major working force in my life. I am forever fascinated by its endless expressive possibilities as a medium.

All of my pieces are made from an earthenware clay body and fired to 1900 degrees Fahrenheit. I draw my imagery onto the piece in the leatherhead stage and then carve and texture the surface. If areas are to be glazed, I do this in the bone-dry stage and single fire in an electric kiln. After the firing, I apply a rubbed on patina to all of the unglazed areas. Even though I use similar forms, all of the imagery is unique to that particular piece.

My work is based on ideas about dreams and their relationship to fantasy. My most recent works deal with how we remember and perceive dreams in fragmented ways. I am exploring space, texture, surface design and the overlapping of objects to create this sense of fragmentation. My imagery reflects situations that are comfortable, mysterious and romantic in nature. I am fascinated by the unknown and the mysteries of the universe. The faces emit emotions, feeling and energy that create a mood within the surrounding landscape. Each piece does not tell its own story, rather it allows the viewer to discern their own feelings and thoughts. My work is meant to evoke the viewer's senses of idea and content as well as the relationships to space, texture, color, form and surface.

DAVID STABLEY STORYTELLING PLATE ASSIGNMENT:

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY WORDS:

Composition- the arrangements of the parts in a work of art, usually according to the principles of design.

Relief- a three-dimensional form, meant to be seen from one side, in which surfaces project from a background. In high relief, the forms stand far from the background. In low relief, also known as *bas-relief*, they are shallow.

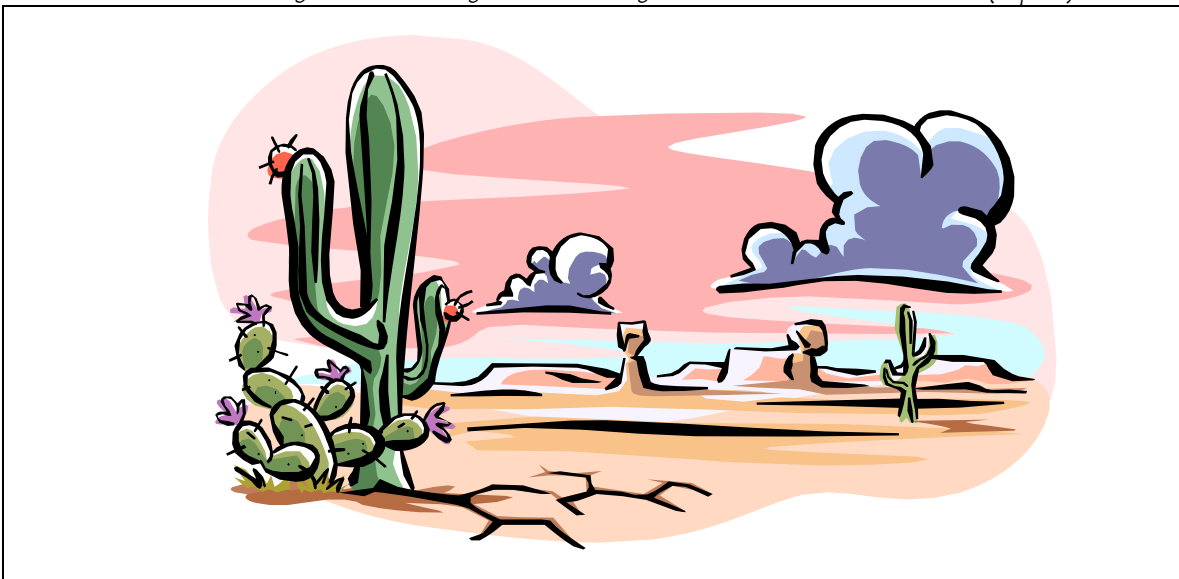
- **Additive relief**- when an image is added above the original surface or the background (adding coils, cut-out shapes, or modeling).
- **Subtractive relief**- when an image is molded below the original surface or the background (carving into the piece, taking away).
- **Sunken relief**- when an image is molded below the original surface or the background (objects pressed in to surface or stamping).

Foreground- objects that appear closest to the viewer, most often larger than those that are behind.

Middle ground- objects that appear between the foreground and the background.

Background- objects that appear farthest from the viewer, most often smaller than those that are in front.

Below, label foreground, middle ground, & background as discussed in class: (3 pts.)



Realistic- art that shows recognizable subject with lifelike colors, textures, shadows, and proportions.

Abstract Art- a style of art that objects, people, and/or places are simplified arrangements of shape, line, texture, and color, often geometrical.