

LI Wei-han, Rosanna

Suggested Class Activities for Junior Secondary

Artist: LI Wei-han, Rosanna

Level: Junior secondary

Theme: Olympic Games

Suggested length: 4 hours

Teaching concept:

Ceramic art comes in various forms, ranging from practical utensils to home decorations and clay figures and animals.

LI Wai-han, Rosanna's chubby, cute and innocent ceramic figurines overturn the nowadays concept of "beauty is slim", expressing her pursuit of "inner richness".

Through LI's ceramic figurines, this course aims to help students create their own figurines based on people around them, connecting them through interpersonal relationships. Students will learn that art is not just about the creation of a personal artwork, but also about interacting with people.

Required background knowledge:

1. The students should be able to depict people's actions.
2. They should know about the basic forms of characters.

Teaching goals:

1. Learn about LI's style and themes of her work through her video.
2. Learn about the characteristics and messages of LI's ceramic art in comparison to ancient Chinese pottery figurines.
3. Acquire basic ceramic making skills including hand-building, carving and embossing.
4. Sculpt chubby figurines with clay.
5. Learn about the skills of glazing.

Suggested class activities:

1. **Introduce LI Wei-han, Rosanna and her artistic style (Suggested length: 3 mins)**

Show the "Artist Introduction ppt" pp1-3

Rosanna LI first studied ceramics in Hong Kong and then studied art education in the UK. She received the Urban Council Fine Arts Award – Ceramics (1985), the Hong Kong Sculptor of the Year Award (1999), etc. LI was a founding member of the Contemporary Ceramic Society (HK) and taught at Hong Kong Polytechnic University's School of Design between 1990 and 2010.

LI uses chubby ceramic figurines to explore profound meanings in local lifestyle, culture and politics. Recently, she created several large-scale outdoor sculptures, which have brought her works closer to the community.

2. **Video viewing guide (Suggested length: 5 mins)**

- Pay attention to the features of the people depicted in the sculptures
- Sources of inspiration
- Making method

3. **Play the “Artist Video mp4” (Suggested length: 15 mins)**

Select parts of the video depending on your chosen area of focus, pausing as needed to explain the content or ask questions.

4. **Appreciation of LI’s works (Suggested length: 5 mins)**

Show the “Artist Introduction ppt” pp4-9 or replay part of the “Artist Video mp4”



Yuanyang Café / 2012

Ceramic sculptures



Soulmates / 2014

Ceramic sculptures

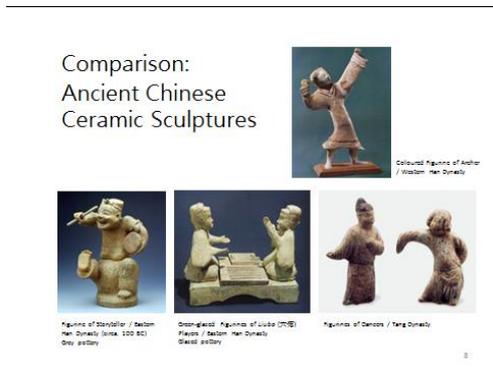
Images taken from the Artist Video

Guide the students to appreciate in the following steps:

- Description: Describe the activities of the figurines. (Eating, chatting, shopping, playing basketball, etc.)
- Formal analysis: Describe the main features of the figurines. (Chubby heads, bodies and limbs)
- Explanation: Discuss the emotions or lifestyle expressed in *Yuanyang Café*. (Simple and relaxed lifestyle)
- Judgement: Did the works represent the artist’s creative mind?

Compare LI’s works with ancient Chinese ceramic sculptures.

- What are the similarities / differences between them?



(top left, bottom left, bottom right) The images are taken from:

<http://hk.chiculture.net/20502/html/b30/20502b30.html>;

<http://hk.chiculture.net/20502/html/b33/20502b33.html>

<http://hk.chiculture.net/20502/html/c29/20502c29.html>

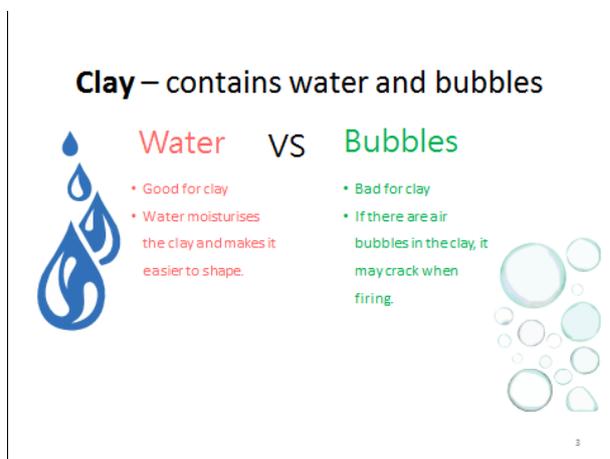
(top right) The image is taken from: Lang Shaojun edited: Zhongguo zaoxing yishu cidian.

Beijing: China Youth Press, 1996, p 41.

5. Introduce clay and tools (Suggested length: 3 mins)

Show the “Supplementary Teaching Materials ppt” pp2-8

Introduce the methods of kneading clay:



Introduce the tools and materials:

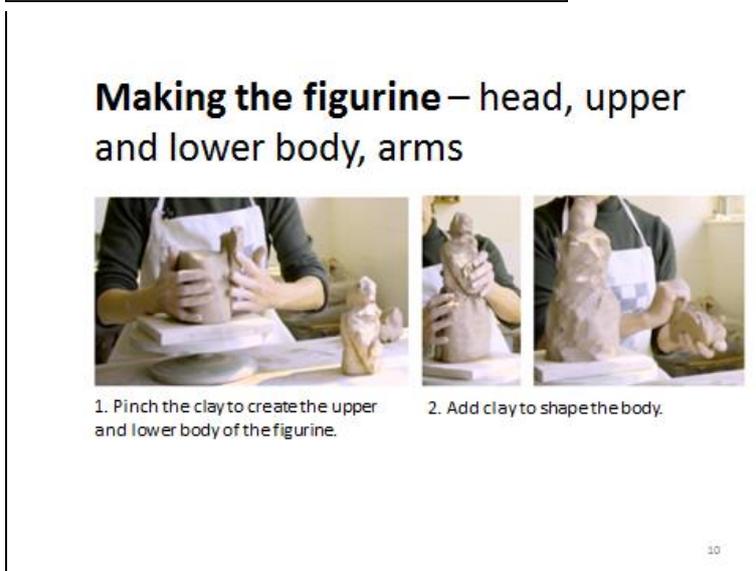
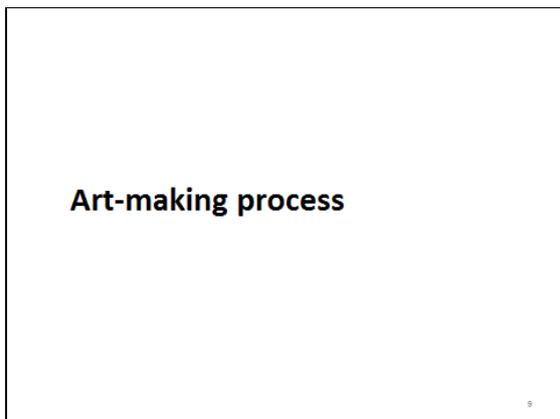
- Knives, wooden rifflers, sharp pins, wire scrapers, thread cutters, clay, slurries, water, cloths, wheel, wooden board and plastic wraps.



6. **Introduce the art-making process (Suggested length: 15 mins)**

Show the **“Supplementary Teaching Materials ppt” pp9-27**

- Demonstrate the techniques of pinching, hollowing-out, incising, impressing and luting.



Making the figurine



3. Make the chubby body of the figurine in detail.



4. Create a pair of arms with clay of equal size.

11

Joining clay – score and slip



5. Joints between the arms and the body have to be scored before attaching the arms to the body.



6. Apply slip on the joints.

12

Joining clay



7. Attach the arms to the body.

13

Joining clay



8. Cover the joints with a thin coil of clay and smooth it.

14

Adding details – fingers, facial features, hair



9. Make the fingers with scissors.

10. Make a nose by pinching a tiny piece of clay.

11. Score the edges with a sharp pin.



12. Score the edges on the other side. Apply slip on the joints and attach the nose to the face.

15

Adding details



13. Make two small holes on the nose.

14. Pinch two tiny pieces of clay to make the ears. Score the edges to be attached.

15. Add earholes with a modelling tool.

16

Adding details



16. Attach the ears to the face. Check if they look the same.



17. Insert the needle the ears to fine-tune the ears.



18. Make the eyes and the mouth with the needle.



17

Adding details



19. Make the hair with a comb-shaped modelling tool.



18

Hollowing – to prevent breaking in the kiln



20. Halve the clay with a fishing wire after making the body.

19

Hollowing



21. Carve a circle with a needle about 1 cm beyond the edge.



22. Hollow-out the clay inside the circle with a wire sculpting tool.



23. Same on the other half.

20

Re-assembling – connect the upper and lower part



24. Attach the upper body to the lower body after smoothing the walls inside the two parts.



25. Score the joint with a needle.



26. Score the edges to be connected.

21

Re-assembling



27. Apply slip on the edges to be connected.

22

Re-assembling



28. Connect the upper part of the body to the lower part.

23

Re-assembling



29. Smooth the joint area and roll out a thin coil of clay.

24

Re-assembling



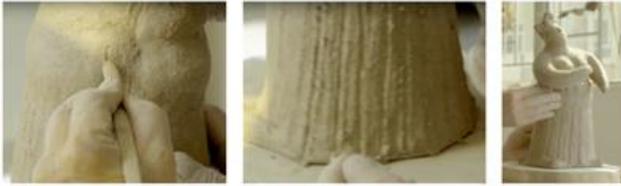
30. Fill up the gap and strengthen the joint with a thin coil of clay.



31. Smooth the joint area.

25

Fine-tune – making textures



32. Fine-tune the figurine carefully with modelling tools.

26

7. Class activity (Suggested length: 120 mins)

- Learn from LI's ceramic techniques and artistic style.
- The figurine should have head, body and limbs.
- The figurine should depict a sport in Olympic Games.

8. Wait until the greenwares are dry. Show the students how to pack the kiln with greenwares and biscuit fire them.

9. After the biscuit firing, the students can apply under-glaze on their works. The teacher packs the kiln for glaze firing. (Suggested length: 30 mins).

Biscuit firing and glazing – harden the clay and colour the figurine

- 1 Biscuit-fire the figurine in a kiln at 900 – 1000 degree Celsius.
- 2 Apply glaze after biscuit-firing.
- 3 Glaze-fire the figurine in a kiln at 1200 to 1300 degrees Celsius.



33. Underglaze can be applied on the surface.



34. Figurine after glaze-fired.

27

10. Appreciation of students' works (Suggested length: 10 mins)

11. Materials

Clay, hand-building ceramic tools, underglazes