

Lazertran™ Polymer Portraits

(art + technology)

Incorporating New Media with traditional art, this process challenges students to use digital images to create a mask or 3-dimensional portrait. Students use digital photos or images from a CD to assemble a face using Photoshop or any computer program available in the classroom. It can be enhanced, manipulated and alter it to their liking. When finished, the image applies directly to polymer clay using Lazertran Silk Transfer Paper and may be baked along with the clay.

Grade Levels 9-12

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Objectives

- Students will create digital images that can be translated into 3-dimensional clay sculpture.
- Students will use new media processes in combination with traditional art techniques.

Preparation

Select and prepare digital artwork for printing. Use one of the following options:

A) Prepare the entire face on the computer. Close range, straight-on portrait photos work well. You might wish to have a template prepared for a typical face size and shape to place the artwork in.

B) Print each image to be used as separate images on one sheet of paper and assemble in collage format (as shown in sample). These could be printed ahead of time and ready to assemble.

NOTE: artwork must be mirror image! If incorporating words, print them in reverse.

Process

1. Use rolling pin to roll Sculpey until it is very thin, approximately 1/16". Make sure that the surface is very smooth for the best transfer.
2. Print images onto Lazertran paper, cut out. Lay face down on top of the Sculpey. Using rolling pin, gently burnish paper down, making sure that contact is made between the image in the clay in all areas and that air holes are eliminated. Wait 30 minutes or more for the transfer to take place. Use a sponge to apply water to the backing paper until it is thoroughly saturated. Allow to



Materials

Lazertran™ Transfer Paper for Silk (10446-2010), package of ten sheets, need 1/2 sheet per student

Sculpey® Modeling Compound, White (33219-), share one 1-3/4-lb block between six students

Paper Maché Mask (61198-1000), need one per student

Non-Stick Rolling Pin (30345-0000), share two across classroom

Blick Ceramic Tool Set (30368-1005), share five 5-tool sets across classroom

Acme™ Stainless Steel Scissors (57025-0000), need one per student

Oven

Cookie sheet pan for baking

Blick Artist's Acrylic Gloss Medium (00623-1037) share one quart across classroom

Process, continued

penetrate for another 10 minutes, then slide the backing paper off to reveal the transfer. If paper doesn't slide easily, soak with more water. Water will not alter clay.

3. Allow the image to dry, then carefully drape the Sculpey over the paper maché mask, gently pressing it around the contours. The transfer will crack with handling and manipulation, so handle with care and expect minor flaws. Trim the edges with scissors if desired. Additional pieces may be added (as shown in sample) by cutting them out of Sculpey with scissors and attaching with a modeling tool. Additional forms can also be created and attached with Sculpey. If mask is being created, add small holes for eyes and on sides of face to string.
4. Place the paper mache mask on sheet pan and bake in pre-heated oven at 275° for 8 minutes. Do not overbake.
5. Allow to cool completely, then remove face from paper maché form. Coat with acrylic gloss medium for a glazed finish.

National Standards

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

- **9-12** Students communicate and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques and processes they use.

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

- **9-12** Students create artworks that use organizational principles and functions to solve specific visual arts problems.

Content Standard #3 — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas

- **9-12** Students apply subjects, symbols and ideas in their artworks and use the skills gained to solve problems in daily life.