

LOOKING TO LEARN

November 2021



This month we looked at *Everyday I think of You* by Pattie Chalmers, from our exhibition *Shaping Memories: Expressions in Clay*, read the book *Memory Jars* by Vera Brosgol, and created hanging sculptures that remind us of a favorite memory. If you missed our program, or are looking to continue the discussion from home, here are the highlights!

MEMORY: When an event happens, when you learn something, or when you meet someone, your brain determines whether that information needs to be saved. If your brain judges the information important, it places it in your memory. Recalling those stored memories can happen at a moments notice and can even be triggered by an everyday object! Today we will explore the incredible power of everyday objects to spark personal memories and connect our experiences.



Pattie Chalmers, *Every Day I Think of You*
2019 (detail). Terracotta.
Courtesy of the artist.

EVERYDAY I THINK OF YOU BY PATTIE CHALMERS

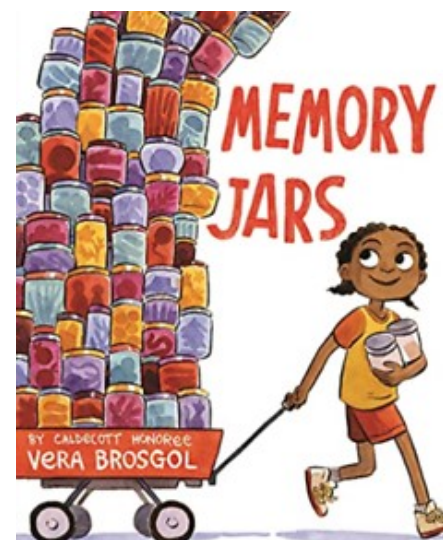
Pattie Chalmers' work is about personal memories that connect to universal emotions and experiences. She explores the power of ordinary objects to hold memories of people, places, and events, and preserves these objects through the long-lasting material of clay. Let's look closely at the work and ask some questions:

- What do you see? Make a visual inventory of the things you notice in the artwork.
- Why do you think the artist changed the size of the objects?
- Why do you think the artist changed the color of the objects?
- Why would the artist make this? What do you think these objects mean to the artist? Who might the objects have belonged to?
- How do the materials used affect the message of the artwork?

MEMORY JARS BY VERA BROSGOL

This book is about the desire to preserve special memories. Watch a read aloud of *Memory Jars* from Tuesday.With.Tausha [here](#).

- To preserve something means to keep something safe. What is Freda afraid will happen to her memories if she doesn't keep them safe?
- Can you name an object that Freda tried to preserve in a jar? What did that object mean to Freda?
- What are some other ways that people preserve memories?
- What is a memory that is special to you? What object reminds you of that memory?



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ART MAKING ACTIVITY: We are going to be making a sculpture today using clay. A clay object can preserve information for thousands of years. In fact, some of the oldest man-made objects ever found are made from clay. Because of their permanence, clay objects can act like a time capsule for an important memory! Lets think about a memory that is worth keeping safe. What is a memory that is very special to you?

SUPPLY LIST:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Air dry clay
- Small lengths of flexible wire or ornament hooks
- Tools for shaping and adding texture to clay
- Newspaper or cardboard to protect your surface
- Small bowl of water



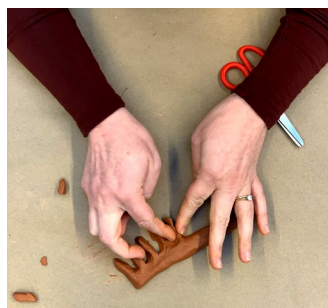
INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Think of an object that reminds you of a special memory. Draw the object with pencil on paper.
2. Take out your air dry clay. Pinch, roll, and press the clay into the general shape of your object.
3. If you notice any cracks in your clay, add a very small amount of water to the surface and smooth them out with your fingertips.



4. Use tools to perfect your shape and add details.



5. For a hidden wall hook, angle the ends of your wire hook into the back of your object and use a tool to press the clay tightly around the holes.



7. For a top hook, twist your wire into a loop and stick the loose ends into the top of your clay object. Use a tool to press the clay tightly around the base of the hook.



8. Leave your sculpture in a safe place to dry for 24 hours!