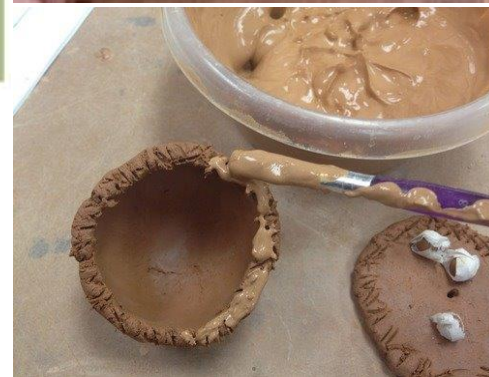


2 Art. Festival Masks

Stages of Clay

	Slip/Slurry Clay mixed with water into a pudding-like or liquid consistency. Used for joining clay, slip trailing, and slip casting.	Recyclable
	Plastic Soft, workable clay that can be easily molded and formed. Used for hand-building, extruding and wheel throwing.	
	Leather-Hard Clay that has hardened slightly. This is the ideal stage for carving clay and building tall slab constructions.	
	Bone-Dry Clay that is completely dried and ready to be fired. Clay is very fragile at this stage.	
	Bisqueware Clay that has been transformed into ceramic material after being fired once. Ready to be glazed, stained or painted.	Non-Recyclable
	Glazeware Ceramic material with glaze applied and fired a second time.	



Key terms

Clay
 Ceramic
 Sculpture
 Slab building
 Slip
 SSS –
 score, slip, smooth
 Plastic
 Leather hard
 Green ware
 Bisque ware
 Glaze
 Kiln
 Fired
 Carving
 Decorative
 Surface decoration

Carving

Carving is a surface decoration technique where shapes and patterns are carved into leather-hard clay using various tools.



Kiln - a type of large oven used for making clay objects hard after they have been shaped.



Art. African masks

Facts about African Masks:

- 1.Purpose:** African masks are used for various purposes, including rituals, ceremonies, storytelling, and entertainment.
- 2.Material:** Masks are typically made from wood, metal, fabric, and other natural materials found in the region where they are made.
- 3.Design:** Masks often feature intricate designs and patterns that represent different aspects of the culture, such as animals, spirits, or ancestors.
- 4.Symbolism:** Each element of a mask, such as the colours, shapes, and symbols used, holds significance and conveys specific meanings within the culture.
- 5.Regions:** Different African regions have their unique styles of mask-making, with each tribe or community having its distinct designs and traditions.
- 6.Creativity:** African masks exhibit a high level of artistic creativity and craftsmanship, showcasing the skill and talent of the makers.

Key Words:

- African Masks:** Traditional masks created by various African cultures for ceremonial, religious, and artistic purposes.
- Ceremonial:** Relating to a formal religious or public occasion.
- Tradition:** Customs or beliefs passed down from generation to generation within a culture.
- Symbolism:** Using symbols to represent ideas or qualities.

1. Dan Mask (Liberia and Ivory Coast)

- Features a smooth, symmetrical face with geometric patterns and stylized features.
- Represents strength, power, and wisdom in Dan culture.



3. Bwa Mask (Burkina Faso)

- Known for its abstract and geometric designs, representing spirits and the natural world.
- Used in agricultural and initiation ceremonies among the Bwa people.



4. Punu Mask (Gabon)

- Characterised by a white face, delicate features, and intricate scarification patterns.
- Represents the spirits of ancestors and is used in funeral rites.

2. Kuba Mask (Democratic Republic of Congo)

- Notable for its elaborate designs, often featuring cowrie shells and intricate patterns.
- Symbolizes royal power and authority among the Kuba people.



Art. Venetian Masks



- Venetian masks are a traditional part of Venetian culture, especially during the Carnival of Venice, that dates back to the 11th Century.
- Masks were worn for a variety of reasons, including hiding one's identity and allowing for more freedom of expression.
- The art of mask-making has been a significant cultural tradition in Venice for centuries.

Introduction to Venetian Masks

Examples of Venetian Masks

• **Colombina:** A delicate, half-mask often decorated with intricate designs and worn by women to reveal their beauty.



• **Medico della Peste (Plague Doctor):** A long beak-like mask with glass eyes, worn during times of plague to protect against disease.



• **Gnaga:** A comical mask representing a long-nosed old hag, often worn for comedic effect.



Interesting Facts about Venetian Masks

- **Secrecy:** Masks allowed individuals to engage in activities without fear of being recognised, leading to a sense of freedom.
- **Government Regulations:** In the 18th century, the Venetian government restricted the use of masks to specific times and places.
- **Mask-Makers Guild:** The art of mask-making was governed by a guild, ensuring quality and craftsmanship standards were upheld.

Key Features of Venetian Masks

- **Decorative Elements:** Masks are often decorated with feathers, beads, gems, and gold leaf to create intricate patterns and designs.
- **Materials:** Traditionally made from papier-mâché, modern masks can also be crafted from leather, porcelain, or glass.
- **Symbols:** Masks may feature symbols like the jester's hat, representing comedy, or the tragedy mask, symbolising sadness.

• **Bauta:** A white mask covering the whole face, usually worn with a black hood and a tricorn hat.



• **Volto (Larva):** A simple mask mainly in white or black, covering the whole face with a small opening for the mouth.



• **Moretta:** A small black oval mask worn by noblewomen, held in place by a button between the teeth.



• **Arlecchino (Harlequin):** A half-mask featuring diamond patterns and bright, contrasting colours.



Art. Mexican Day of The Dead Masks

Key facts

- **Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) festival**, is a celebration of life and death. While the holiday originated in Mexico, it is celebrated all over Latin America with colourful calavera's (skulls) and Calaca's (skeletons).
- It takes place on November 1st and 2nd, coinciding with the Catholic holidays of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

• How the Day of the Dead Is Celebrated.....

Different towns in Mexico celebrate the festival in different ways, but there are some common practices. On the first day it is believed that spirits of children who have died return. The second day is when the spirits of adults return. For both days people decorate the graves of their relatives with flowers and the favourite foods of the relatives. Many families build altars, called *ofrendas*, in their homes to honour their dead relatives. They decorate the altars with candles, flowers, food, and photos of the relatives.

Key terms

Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) festival

- **Calavera:** A decorative skull
- **Calaca:** Skeleton
- **Sugar skull:** The sugar skulls were originally created as gifts, to be eaten by children. They are sometimes now used as offerings to be placed on altars known as ofrendas

Day of the Dead Masks

Key Facts:

- Masks play a significant role in Day of the Dead celebrations, often worn during parades and festivities.
- The masks are elaborately decorated with colourful designs and intricate patterns.
- They are used to depict calaveras (skeletons) and characters from Mexican folklore.



Examples of Day of the Dead Masks

Traditional Skull Mask:

Features intricate sugar skull designs with floral patterns. Typically painted in vibrant colours like blue, pink, and yellow.

La Catrina Mask:

Resembles the elegant skeletal figure. Often adorned with lace details and intricate face paint.

