



Grade/s: 10 – 12

Enduring Idea: Heroes

Integrated Discipline: Social Studies

Unit Title: Storytelling with Sgraffito

Unit Designer: Lane Laney

Unit Description: Heroes are celebrated and immortalized by communities and cultures in different ways. By exploring how contemporary, historical, and mythological heroes have been portrayed and honored in artwork; the learners will discuss how heroes are created and revered. Through the application of a series of ceramic processes, the learners will represent their personal heroes in a thoughtful and creative way.

Images: "Diana (The Hunt)," Harriet Whitney Frishmuth, with Karl Illava (1952.29)
"Martin Luther King, Jr.," John Wilson (2002.11.2)
"Bowl or Wine Cooler with the Labors of Hercules," Giovanni Alberghetti the Elder (1963.49)
"David Holding Goliath's Head," Guido Cagnacci (1962.21)
"Bottle (Meiping)," Anonymous (2007.3.39) (Example of Sgraffito technique)

Key Concept: Acknowledging heroic acts and inspiring others to do the same

Essential Question: How do different cultures celebrate heroes?

CCSS Art: VAH2-1.4 Apply materials, techniques, and processes with skill, confidence, and sensitivity sufficient to make his or her intentions observable in the artwork that he or she creates.

VAH2-3.1 Explore the sources of the subject matter and the ideas in variety of works of visual art.

VAH2-4.1 Describe ways that the subject matter, symbols, ideas, and technologies in various artworks are related to history and culture.

VAH2-4.3 Describe and discuss the function and meaning of specific artworks from various world cultures and historical periods.

Integrated CCSS: Social Studies - History; learners will acquire knowledge of the history and values of diverse civilizations throughout the world, including those of the West, and in comparing patterns of continuity and change in different parts of the world.

Learning Outcomes: The learners will...

- plan and construct a smoothed coil vessel using appropriate hand building techniques
- plan and illustrate the labors, triumphs, or efforts of a hero
- appropriately apply sgraffito techniques to their vessel

Motivator: The teacher will introduce the learners to the "Clay Wars." All learners receive the same amount of clay (about a hand full). The teacher will then prompt a series of timed challenges (Most perfect sphere, most perfect cube, longest unbroken coil [Must be able to hold it up], tallest structure without toppling, most realistic animal).

Day Breakdown: Day 1 - Motivator (see above).

Day 2 - The teacher will demonstrate how create a profile key. A profile key is a guide cut from poster board that shows what the shape of the vessel should look like. It is generally represented as the negative space of one half of the pot. The learners will be able to hold it up throughout the hand building process so that they know when to curve in or out on their next coil.

The learners will sketch ideas for their vessels and profile keys.

Day 3 - The teacher will demonstrate how to begin a pot with a small circular slab (2-3" in diameter works best); and roll, cut, add, and blend coils. The learners will begin building.

NOTE: All work should be stored in an airtight bag to prevent drying.

Day 4-7 - The learners will complete their hand-built vessels with the help of their profile keys. After they are complete, vessels should be uncovered to dry.

Day 8 - The teacher will introduce artwork from the Columbia Museum of Art. The learners will discuss why the people represented are heroes, to what communities they have become heroes, and the different ways that artists represent heroes (i.e., comic books, relief carvings, portraits, statues/monuments, etc.).

The learners will select a personal, historical, or fictional hero and begin sketching ideas. The hero can be portrayed in a series of windows (comic book style) or in an unbroken register of illustrations.

Day 9 - The teacher will demonstrate the sgraffito technique (see resources) and discuss the significance and history of the process (along with Red and Black Figure pottery) in Greece and Rome. Black or red slip or underglaze should be strategically applied to the surface of the learners' bone dry vessels. Once the slip/underglaze is dry, the learners will lightly sketch their illustrations onto the slip using pencil. The learners will then use scratch tools (or any other semi-sharp tool) to scrape away their pre-drawn pencil lines. Finished work will then be fired in the kiln.

Materials: Clay, colored slip (velvet underglaze can also work), sgraffito/scratch/loop/or needle tool (even a paper clip)

can work)

Resources: Images of classic vessel forms (for reference)
Images of red and black figure pottery from Greece and Rome
Sgraffito Process
<http://youtu.be/Cxf7h3c2gzU?t=3m55s> (Tutorial)

Assessment: Learners will be assessed using a rubric that analyzes handbuilding techniques, sgraffito application, and narrative hero illustration.