



the new children's museum

## LESSON PLAN:

Preposterous  
People Pots

## OVERVIEW

### Inspired by:

Panca's bridge mural, *SMILE*, which welcomes visitors into the Museum with colorful lines and varying images of playful eyes, smiles and heart-shaped noses. Panca transforms urban environments into colorful murals, which often depict an array of strange, silly and vibrant looking characters and faces. This project is also inspired by Panca's ceramic work and asks students to create funny-faced pinch pots with limbs. The project challenges the notion that art needs be rigid and encourages students to be silly with their art making.

### Grades:

1st Grade and up

### Duration:

1 hour

## HOW-TO

### Materials:

- o Clay cut into 2-inch cubes
- o Cups of water
- o Small paintbrushes
- o Acrylic paints
- o Plastic needles
- o Skewers
- o Optional: Empty paint containers or wooden dowels to use as a stand for your pot while painting



## STEPS

### Prep + Create Pots:

1. Using about 2/3 of your block of clay, form a ball.
2. Press your thumb into the center of the ball and pinch around the outside to widen the hole and create a pot.

3. Create eyes, a nose, a mouth and other facial features using your remaining clay. Attach to the pot using the score and slip method - use skewer to make little hashtags on each piece of clay you are connecting, then dab some water onto scored areas with your finger. Press scored areas together to attach.
4. Use your skewer to add details like eyelashes or freckles.
5. Thread yarn through a plastic needle.
6. On one side of the face, push your needle into the middle of the pot for an arm, then out the bottom for the leg. Repeat on the other side.
7. Using the last of your clay, create four small slabs and fold them over the ends of the yarn like a taco to create hands and feet. Use water to hold them in place.
8. Paint your person! You can use an empty paint bottle or a large dowel to hold and rotate the pot while you paint.