

Project: Design and sculpt a vase inspired by past and contemporary potters.

Key Knowledge – Grayson Perry

Learn this information

Background

(Born 24 March 1960, Grayson is an English contemporary artist. He is known for his ceramic vases, tapestries and cross-dressing.

Influences

Perry's vases have classical forms and are decorated in bright colours, depicting subjects at odds with their attractive appearance. Hogarth has long been an influence on Perry's works, his Englishness, his robust humour and his depiction of, in his own words, 'modern moral subjects'. The secondary influence comes from Perry's favourite form of art, early Renaissance painting.

Key ideas

Grayson likes to comment on contemporary life: identity, gender, social status, religion. There is a strong autobiographical element in his work, in which images of Perry as "Claire", his female alter-ego, childhood teddy bear, often appear.



Mr Right Vase, Grayson Perry, 2015

Key Skills

Practice and perform these skills

Show a good **understanding of safety** when handling sculpting tools.

Use **pinch** and **coil** techniques when creating vases out of clay.

Plan and create vases using modelling clay.

Finish vases in different ways, such as **glazing, polishing and painting**.

Create vases from **observation and imagination**.

Apply **slip** to neatly join different parts of a clay sculpture.

Use tools effectively to **carve** vases.

Ancient vases

Study and evaluate, to develop your own vases



Terracotta Amphora
900 BCE

Sculpting tools



Key Vocabulary

Understand these keywords

Vase – an open container. They are often used to hold cut flowers. Traditionally all vases have a foot or a base, a body, a neck and a lip. Some vases also have handles.

Ceramic – the general name given to all clay pots that have been fired.

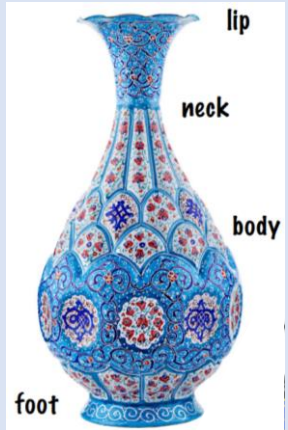
Kiln – a hot furnace used for firing (hardening) clay.

Lip – the opening of the vase.

Neck – a slender section of the vase leading from the body to the lip.

Body – the main container of the vase

Foot – the base of a vase.



Pinch – body of a pot made inserting the thumb into a clay ball and then pinching the sides to create the walls.

Coil – the clay is worked in the form of ropes, which are rolled over each other giving shape to the object.

Glazing – a thin layer of paint is applied on top of the main colour, resulting in rich, iridescent colours.

Scratch and slip - a technique used to join bits of clay. Making grooves in the clay (scratch) before adding water (slip) to glue the two parts together.