

Esther Shimazu -- Tiny Persons

We will make small hollow figurines using standard handbuilding techniques. They'll begin as solid for ease of composition. We will then cut them into parts. Each section will be hollowed out with trimming tools and pinching and then reassembled into an air-filled whole. Students need some experience, at least understanding the ceramic process and familiarity with pinchpot and coil construction.

Participant Tool List

Must have:

Needle tool

Fettling knife, other cutting tools for more precise work (small blades, scalpels, frisket knives....)

Loop trimming tools to hollow out wet clay. Round wire ends work better than ribbon ends.

Scoring tool to roughen surfaces to be joined (commercial, homemade, section of old hair comb....)

Rubber and metal scrapers

Brushes: one large sumi/pointy brush

Natural sponges: one seawool for clean-up, one silk or small and flat

Drycleaner plastic or lightweight clear plastic bags

Optional but Recommended (I've collected and use a lot of tools. You Cannot Use Mine):

Modeling tools of all kinds

Bamboo or wooden paddle

Flat synthetic sable watercolor brushes for fine smoothing of wet clay

small detail brush

Pointy bamboo BBQ skewers to refine crevices

Pieces of plastic and metal window screening or greenhouse shade cloth to smooth surfaces

Various sizes of wooden dowels with whittled and sanded ends of various shapes (different tapers, knife edges, chisel ends, flat ends, incline ends....)

Smooth wooden or hollow bisque ware eggs and balls, range of sizes, to compress and form from the back or inside

Wooden balls and eggs, range of sizes, drilled and glued onto sturdy dowels for forming from the inside where you can't otherwise reach. Also known/usable as throwing sticks.

Make small eater dog, set aside to dry. Make tiny dog stooge, set aside to dry. Go back to eater dog, terra sig, burnish. Put white highlights on stooge.

1. Roll rattle beads, set aside.

2. Get a small fist sized ball of clay. Make it more oval, keep it smooth and compact.

- 3.