IBDP Visual Arts

Mrs. Kubacki

**Surrealist Juxtaposition**

**Surrealism** – An artistic movement founded in the 1920s as a reaction to the horrors of World War I. Surrealists sought to combine imagery from dreams and fantasies with that of the every day world. The goal was to use art to unite one’s conscious self with one’s subconscious self.

**Juxtaposition** – The unexpected pairing of contrasting concepts, which often alters or adds to the original meaning of those concepts and reveals a surprising relationship. This act of combining ordinary things in extraordinary ways often creates irony and makes the familiar seem strange.

For this project, you will create a ceramic sculpture that demonstrates surrealist juxtaposition. Your piece may be constructed entirely out of clay, or you can add other materials after your clay piece has been fired in the kiln.

**Procedure:**

1. Brainstorm imagery for juxtaposition. Think about combinations that are surprising or amusing. Consider whether your imagery should connect with your theme for the class.
2. Create 3-5 sketches of your design concept, each from a different angle. Keep in mind that 3-D artwork needs to be visually interesting from multiple angles.
3. Wedge your clay to remove air bubbles.
4. Begin sculpting your piece. Decide (or speak to me about) whether you should use a paper armature or sculpt with solid clay that will later be hollowed out.
5. When you are done sculpting, your piece will need to fully air-dry and then be fired in the kiln.
6. Decide which surface treatment technique you want to use for your piece. You can use glazes, stains, paints, or any other surface treatment that you think will enhance your work. If glazing or staining, your piece will need to be fired one more time.
7. If you decide to add other objects to your sculpture, this will be done with epoxy after the final kiln firing.

**You will be evaluated on the following criteria:**

* Juxtaposition Concept – Pairing of contrasting concepts which results in a visual surprise
* Design – Demonstration of the intentional application of the elements and principles of design, such as unity, balance, variety, etc; Design is well-considered and visually engaging from multiple points of view
* Construction – Forms are well-built, using appropriate hand-building techniques
* Surface Treatment – Final surface treatment enhances your work both visually and conceptually
* Craftsmanship – Time, care, and neatness are demonstrated in your handling of the materials

## Ceramics and Sculpture Vocabulary

**Armature:** A structure or skeleton on which a sculpture is formed

### Bisque Ware: The preliminary firing to harden the clay body which occurs prior to glazing and glaze firing

**Coil Building:** A hand method of forming pottery by building up the walls with ropelike rolls of clay and then smoothing over the joints

**Glaze:** A liquid suspension of finely ground minerals that is applied on the surface of bisque-fired ceramic ware; When fired in the kiln, the glaze ingredients will melt together to form a glassy surface coating

**Greenware:** Pottery that has not been bisque fired

**Kiln:** A furnace for firing ceramic products

**Pinch Method**: A hand-building technique in which a ball of clay is pressed, pulled, pinched, and smoothed into the desired form

**Slab Construction:** A hand-building method in which forms are created by joining flat pieces of clay

**Slip:** Clay which has been diluted with water; Used for joining pieces of clay

**Wedging:** Kneading plastic clay with the fingers and heels of the hands in a rocking spiral motion in order to force out trapped air pockets and develop a uniform consistency