

Materials in Time

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portsmouth

Homemade Sculpture with James Roseveare

Introduction

My name is Jim Roseveare, I'm an artist who makes sculpture out of building materials and rubbish. The particular rubbish I use comes from the streets of our urban environments. Small fragments are swept from the ground such as cloth, twigs, bone, polystyrene, hair, and dust, which are then mixed with concrete to make sculptures.



You will need:

- A cup of dry foodstuffs
- 500g of plain flour
- 200ml of water
- 1 egg
- Oil, butter, or margarine
- Large mixing bowl
- Rolling pin
- A brush
- Baking tray
- Sewing pins

In this activity we will explore how materials change... over time, when heated, when mixed and squashed together. By simply mixing and baking a dough of flour, water and dry foodstuffs, you'll get to see the changes yourself. When you're finding all your ingredients, have a think about what the things in our kitchen cupboards might say about the way we live now, in 2021?

How do we make sense of the past?

We can learn from what people have written in the past but we can also learn from what people have left behind. The term used for this type of study is Archeology. So what might future generations think of us from the things we leave behind? How might such traces tell a story of the way we live now?

Taking these ideas into our kitchens lets bake a mini sculpture - a time capsule. In making your sculpture think about how someone in the future could discover your work. Is it mysterious? Does it conceal or hide something? Does it look old? The design I have made as an example is a tomb-like structure, but are there many other ways you could make your own sculpture using this method.

Remember don't be tempted to eat your sculpture!

Method

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Here's a picture of the things I used to make my sculpture. Feel free to use the same dry foodstuffs as me or use some other ones! The more different items the better but don't worry if you only have two or three. You can use; dry beans, lentils, rice, cereal noodles, pasta, broken tea bags, crushed egg shells, curry powder, coffee.

1

Pre heat the oven to 220c or Gas mark 7. Mix flour and water in the bowl by making a well in the middle, mix first with a spoon then with the hands for a couple of minutes to make a dough like consistency.



2

Add half a portion of the dry food mix and knead for an extra couple of minutes to form a dough ball. Sprinkle flour onto a large clean surface and transfer your dough ball onto this.



3

Flatten the dough into a rough square shape, then using the rolling pin evenly roll the dough ending up with a square approximately the size of your baking tray. Add the remaining dry mix and roll to embed the mix into the dough.



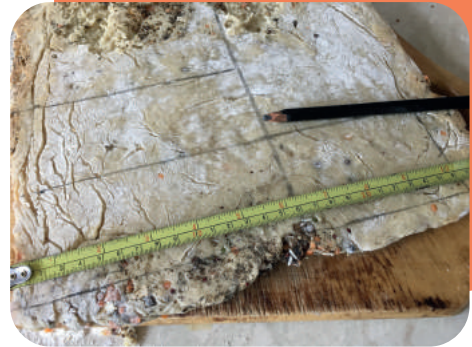


4

Take the beaten egg and pour/brush over the entire surface. Transfer onto a well oiled baking tray. Place in the middle of a preheated oven and bake for 15 minutes. After 15 mins take out of oven and leave to cool for 30 mins.

5

With a thin spatula loosen and remove from the baking tray and turn upside down. At this point you can either explore ideas of making your own sculpture or you can continue to follow the directions below. Make a simple sculpture as you will have to safely cut it out with a bread knife and make sure you have enough pastry to enable your sculpture to stand upright with the help of sewing pins. Using a pencil and ruler, mark all the parts of your sculpture. My tomb is made with; 2 sides 16 x 7cm, 1 back 10 x 7cm, 1 bottom 14 x 7cm, 1 top 10 x 22cm.



6

You can use the uncut rough edges of the pastry for the front ends of your sculpture (see final images) Cut the sections out with a bread knife. Assemble the sculpture with the dry mix on the inside.



7

Carefully pin the back section to one side and then the other. Slide the bottom section into the frame. Secure the sides to the bottom section with 3 pins on either side. Finally place the top section onto the frame and pin down



Extension

Further ideas to explore:

1. Degradation

EVERYTHING degrades – even if it takes millions of years. The next time you are on a sandy beach just think about where all that sand has come from and how old it is! Sand is just eroded rock! Following that idea, think about the things that are discarded in your everyday life . . . what will eventually happen to your broken Gameboy or that old mobile phone or your favourite pair of trainers? How will it degrade? Will it transform into another material? Will the tiny molecules join together into a type of conglomerate material?

2. Archeology

Fishbourne Roman Palace is an excellent example where inscriptions, mosaics, pottery shards, and animal and fish bones have given us a clue of how the Romans once lived in Britain. The palace is the largest residential Roman building discovered in Britain. You can visit it here: Fishbourne Roman Palace, Roman Way, Chichester PO19 3QR

3. Living history

The Weald and Downland Living Museum is a great day out. The emphasis is on experiencing a sense of living history rather than just learning history. See their website for their exciting programme of events. Visit their website here www.wealddown.co.uk or visit it in person here: Weald & Downland Living Museum Town Lane, Singleton, Chichester West Sussex PO18 0EU

4. Long barrows.

The sculpture I made during the activity example is influenced by Neo lithic long barrows and if you would like to find out more please visit the following website: www.heritagedaily.com/2017/11/seven-must-see-long-long-barrows-in-england/100889