

ID # \_\_\_\_\_

**CERAMICS**  
**LEVEL 4**



# REGARDING CLAY AND CERAMICS

## Clay Types

Clay usually falls into three categories: (1) Earthenware, which is not fired high enough for the particles to fuse (vitrify). (2) Stoneware, which is fired to high enough temperature for the particles to fuse together, and (3) Porcelain, a white, translucent clay body that is usually fired very high. Porcelain was first developed in China in the seventh century and is very smooth; it does not contain any of the small particles of fired clay, known as grog, which is often added to clay bodies in order to add texture and reduce shrinking.

## The Stages of Clay

Clay is most workable when it is the wet, fresh, plastic stage. The second stage is leather hard when it is slightly dry and feels like leather. Although the leather hard stage doesn't have as much elasticity as plastic clay, it is the easiest stage in which to carve. If the clay gets any dryer than leather hard, parts can not longer be successfully attached; they will come off during the firing process. When the clay becomes completely dry with no moisture left, it feels like chalk, and is considered bone dry. *It must be at this bone dry stage to be safely fired.*

## Methods of Forming Clay

When hand-building a work of art, an artist will often use several methods to bring it to completion. It may be built from coils, slabs, pinch, or formed on molds. A template may be used as a pattern for achieving specific shapes. In order to ensure the piece has no air pockets, the clay should be well wedged to prepare a homogeneous clay body. This is especially important when a potter is preparing clay for throwing (working on a potter's wheel).

## Types of Ware

When a clay piece has never been fired, it is known as greenware. When it has been fired in the first firing (the bisque fire), it becomes bisqueware. When it has glaze applied and is thus ready for the glaze fire, it is glazeware.

## Surface Decoration

***All glazes must be applied to bisqueware!*** *If it is applied to greenware it will seal in the moisture and cause the piece to explode in the kiln. This will not only damage that one piece, but everything in the kiln with it.* When embellishing the surface of a piece, several methods may be used. Underglaze, (Concepts or Stroke and Coat), must always be applied underneath clear glaze. Most other glazes do not need to have a clear coat applied.

\* *Colored slips and oxides stains may be applied to greenware because they are not glazes and do not seal in moisture.*

All glaze should be washed off of the bottom of the foot or base before firing.

## Elements and Principles of Art and Design

When creating a successful and pleasing work of art or functional pottery, it is important to know how to manipulate the elements and principles of art and design. The piece must always have a sense of balance, whether symmetrical or asymmetrical. If it is not balanced, it will have a disturbing, awkward quality. Sometimes repeated units of design create a pattern. Other times lines may lead the eye around the piece to create a sense of rhythm and movement. It may contain one particular area of emphasis that stands out and demands attention. The lines and shapes can be used in such a way as to convey emotion. Vertical lines are bold and stable, while horizontal lines are calm and restful. Short, non-directional lines appear confused and nervous, while large curvilinear lines tend to be graceful. Angular, diagonal lines are energetic and dynamic.

The artist can use the elements in such a way that they all work together to give the piece a sense of belonging or unity. Value (lights and darks of one color) adds variety, while space gives the illusion of depth and distance. Contrast (strong differences between elements) makes for an interesting effect. Surfaces may be smooth or contain texture. Whether creating form (three dimensional) or painting color on a shape (2 dimensional) or a surface, artists must know how to manipulate the elements of art in order to communicate ideas in a visual manner.

# ADVANCED ASSIGNMENT: FABERGE SELF PORTRAIT EGG CONTAINER PARR—PHS

Your Objective is to create a three-part egg-shaped container after the order of the Russian Faberge eggs; it will have surface embellishments which refer to your personal past, present, and future experiences and thus will be a self portrait container.

## **The requirements for this project are:**

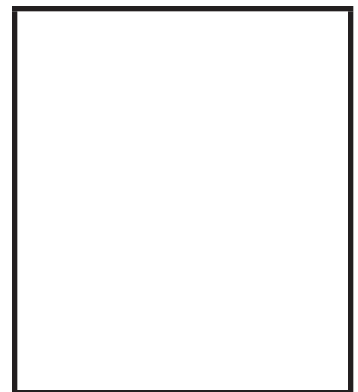
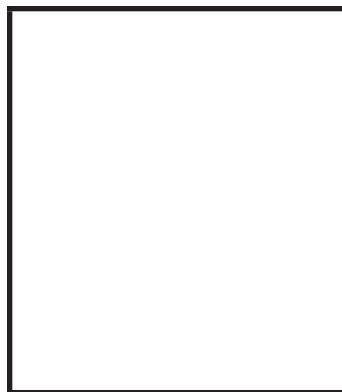
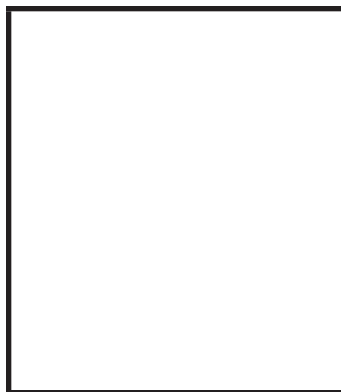
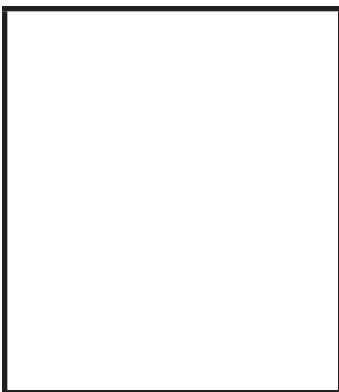
1. It must have the three parts:
  - A stand (with a reference to your past, for the present “rests on your past”.)
  - The main container (with reference to the present).
  - Something to place inside (with reference to your future, for your future is not yet fully known).
2. The surface must be embellished with symbols (icons) of at least four different design elements. These must include attached textural design elements, but may include impressed and incised embellishments as well. (It would be good to consider creating stamps to use as part of the design of your egg.)
3. It must be approximately 10 inches tall; (4” stand, and 6” container).

## **Step One: The Background and Workup**

This project is based on the historical Russian Faberge Egg containers, a tradition that began in 1884 when the Russian Czar Alexander 111 decided to give an elaborately decorated egg to his wife Maria Fedorovna for an Easter gift. Maria was so smitten with the egg, which contained a surprise inside that the Czar began to repeat the gift every year. After he died, his son continued the tradition. The jeweler who made highly intricate and bejeweled first egg was Peter Carl Faberge, after whom the famous eggs are named.

There is much to consider for this project. Use the “think sheets” to help you gather information as you consider you’re past and present life experiences, as well as your future goals. As you come up with your icons, list them in the following boxes and obtain an approval signature before you begin clay construction.

Teacher Approval \_\_\_\_\_



# RESPONSE FOR FABERGE SELF PORTRAIT EGG: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN COMPLETE SENTENCES:

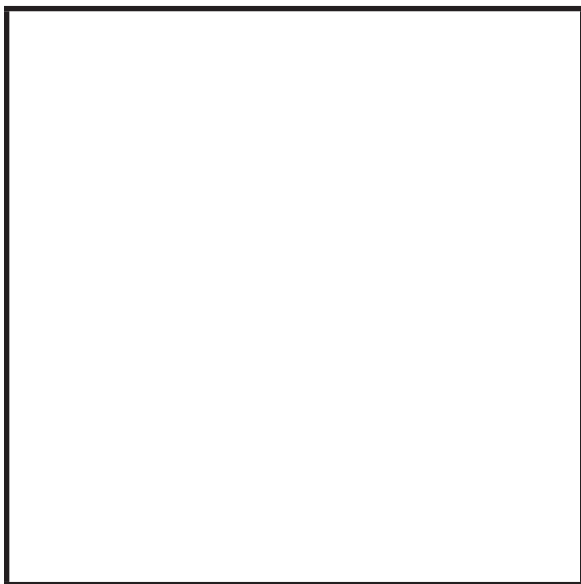
Describe your project in detail using the elements and principles where they apply. Do not describe the process, but instead, the visual design. Use detail as if you were attempting to help a blind person visualize your piece.

What was the most challenging aspect of this assignment for you?

Did your Egg turn out how you imagined it would? Why or why not?

Are you pleased with the outcome and did you enjoy this project?

Make sure your name and period is on your project. Draw your finished Egg in the box below.



## **GRADE:**

<b><u>Greenware</u></b>		
<b><u>Concept</u></b>	<b><u>20</u></b>	
<b><u>Craftsmanship</u></b>	<b><u>20</u></b>	
<b><u>Drawing</u></b>	<b><u>10</u></b>	
<b><u>Response</u></b>	<b><u>10</u></b>	
<b><u>Total Greenware:</u></b>		
<b><u>Glaze</u></b>		
<b><u>Concept</u></b>	<b><u>20</u></b>	
<b><u>Application</u></b>	<b><u>20</u></b>	
<b><u>Total Glaze</u></b>		
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>	

# POP ART FINAL CONSTRUCTION

## PARR—PHS

### Semester final, part A

This is the construction portion of your studio final; it is completed several weeks in advance, bisque fired, then kept safely in your locker until the final weeks of the semester when you complete the surface design. The surface design is part B, the main portion of the final.

In order to ensure that each of you has a project that made it safely through the bisque firing process, we are completing the construction portion (part A) several weeks in advance. This will allow you time to remake it in case of a mishap.

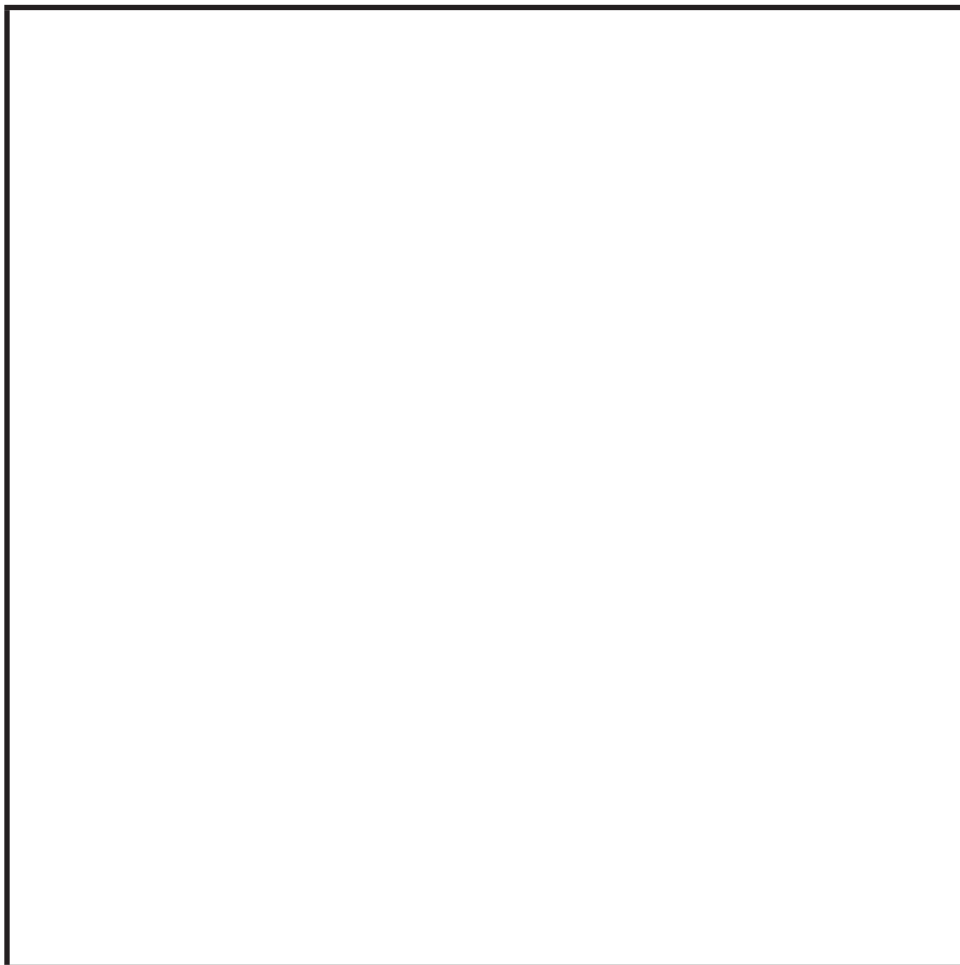
You must have the completed bisqueware final Pop Art project by the following date \_\_\_\_\_

### Procedure for part A of your final:

Construct the project according to the demonstration directions. These directions are also reiterated on a form that is available as a handout.

When complete, put your name and period on the bottom and put it on the greenware shelf to be bisque fired.

Draw a rendering of your greenware vase in the box.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place your name pocket below this line ↓

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