

Project Assignment Three/Part One

Formal problem/Conceptual object: Proportion/Sculptural Vessel

Make at least one vessels which expresses your understanding of the proportion of the Golden Mean. Construct the vessel to take the form of a rectangular solid of six sides, two of which will be squares, using the span of your hand as the basic dimension. Four other sides will be rectangular, again using the span of your hand as the shorter dimension and formulating the longer dimension using the proportion of the Golden Mean. You may choose to make a small opening in one side to allow access to the hollow interior and call this object a vessel. Otherwise, you may prefer to let the exterior form express the overall volume and mass and deny entry to the interior for practical use, making your object rather more sculptural.

"...the archetype of clay construction. It is a freestanding, hollow, vertical sleeve, which can be transformed into a decorative or utilitarian vessel or a figurative or abstract sculpture...The clay sleeve is usually called a vessel when the interior is exposed through an opening at the top, when the silhouette is relatively symmetrical, and when function is clearly implied. The clay sleeve is usually called a sculpture when the interior is unavailable or disregarded or obscured, when the silhouette of the piece changes radically with the angle of viewing, and when there is definable subject matter divorced from utility. A clear distinction between vessel and sculpture cannot always be made."

Vicki Halper, Clay Revisions, Seattle Art Museum, 1987

Use the hard slab method of construction to make each side of the piece hold its shape and attach strongly to other sides. You should try to keep each slab of uniform thickness no greater than 1/2 inch. Make all slabs on the same day and dry them evenly to the leather-hard state before attachment. Make mitered joints along the edges of the slabs and reinforce by pressing a coil of clay into the joints from the interior.

Introduction: Thursday, February 12

First greenware critique: Tuesday, February 24

Final critique: Thursday, March 25