

Project Assignment Two

Formal problem/Conceptual object: Figurative proportion/Gestural Modeling & Carving

Make a series of at least three small sculptures of the human figure to demonstrate your ability to express gesture through direct modeling and carving. Express figures in three stances, at least one each standing, sitting, and lying. Work first in group exercises to practice quickly capturing the expressive gesture and proceed to a slightly larger scale and longer working time. The scale of the finished pieces should be 9-12 inches in height or length. The modeling and/or carving process should be as unmediated and direct as you can make it. If you spend more than two hours working on any one figure, you've probably compromised the expressive gesture.

Start by quickly making a series of small spatial maquettes in clay. These should be done roughly as you might make a series of pencil sketches for a painting. Maquettes should be done in a way that allows you to practice on a small scale the effects of modeling in solid clay. Each maquette should take no more than about 15 minutes to complete the modeling of the features. The scale of the maquettes should not exceed 6 inches in height. Continue to make maquettes throughout this project to record your observations of the figure and to analyze proportion gesturally.

When looking at a work of art, you will notice that your eye is carried through one element to another. The composition of elements in the overall form may create a sense of movement. Each element has an internal force that can be perceived in its structural geometry. When elements are composed, the internal force of each encounters the other making a tension between visible and tactile counter forces. Establishing a dynamic balance between counter forces in composition animates the visual impression of a sculptural artwork. A figurative subject can be expressed sculpturally by capturing an ability to move through a dynamic balance of its elemental parts.

Introduction: Thursday, January 22

Maquette critique: Tuesday, January 27

First greenware critique: Tuesday, February 3

Second greenware critique: Tuesday, February 10