

# OFF CENTER

blue line arts

Grades  
K-2

An International Ceramic  
Competition

## Tour Talk & Create

### Exhibition Background

Off Center is an international ceramic competition featuring ceramic artists from all over the world. This exhibition showcases ceramic sculptures that vary in method, technique, and artistic ideas and expression. Before viewing the Off Center show, this worksheet will help you to prepare your students with a brief history of ceramics, relevant terminology, and the basic understanding of certain elements of art, including texture, shape, and color. During the show, we will discuss the different ceramic hand building methods and tools used in each piece, as well as guide students to describe the art visually. Your students will then be able to use this information to create their own work of art during an instructional step by step video after viewing the gallery tour & discussion video.



This lesson plan features the following National Core Standards for Visual Arts for Grades K-2: VA:Cn11.1, VA:Cr1.1, VA:Cr1.2, VA:Cr2.1, VA:Cr3.1, VA:Re7.1

### Touring + Connecting

During the first part of the video, students will be able to watch a tour of the show to see and respond to a variety of ceramic works and identify several different artistic techniques and practices, hosted by one of our Teaching Artists. We will provide opportunities for learning through guided questions, such as **What kinds of tools can be used to make different textures?** Students will be encouraged to **perceive, analyze, and interpret** artworks firsthand before creating their own project inspired by the show.

### Talking + Responding

During the tour of the Off Center exhibition, students will be encouraged to brainstorm different ideas and questions they may have about a work of art. The video will have moments of silent footage focused on each piece to allow for **discussion among the class** and can be paused at any time for longer discussion needs. Students can also connect with one another to share ideas and questions about the exhibit or about ceramics in general.

### Creating + Presenting

During the hands-on art making session video, students will use the **materials and tools** provided to explore different techniques and styles of ceramic arts that they saw used in the Off Center show to create their own expressive work of art. This video can also be paused at any time, while students follow along and build their creations. This activity is curated and taught by one of our Teaching Artists and is tailored to the grade level of your class. Students will be able to engage artistically with the ideas and art works they have discussed and seen. This project will focus on the use of different **methods and tools** to create a ceramic work of art. After students have completed their art project, we encourage teachers to have students **present their work** to each other so that they can share what they enjoyed and learned about the creative process.

For more information or questions, please contact: [Programs@bluelinearts.org](mailto:Programs@bluelinearts.org)

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LESSON PLAN

### Art Terms

**Texture:** The feel and appearance of an object's surface.

**Shape:** The outline of an object (ie. triangle, circle, square).

#### Primary Colors

The primary colors are used to create all other colors. They are red, yellow and blue.



#### Secondary Colors

By mixing the primary colors together, they create other colors, such as the secondary colors, which are green, orange and violet.



### From the Show!



*Unreal Weather*  
Nate Ditzler  
Ceramic, Underglaze, Glaze

#### Artist Statement:

"I am fascinated by the way that combining familiar and surreal aspects can cause a shift in an artwork's meaning... I seek to raise questions regarding the complexities and paradoxes found in the everyday."

### Questions to Consider

What kinds of tools can be used to make different textures on clay?

What kinds of shapes do you see in this piece?

Describe this texture: what would it feel like if you could touch it?

What primary colors do you see used in this piece? What about secondary colors?