

MAKE A CLAY MONUMENT



HEW LOCKE, THE AMBASSADORS ©HEW LOCKE. PHOTO BY ANNA ARCA COURTESY THE ARTIST AND HALES GALLERY, LONDON

In this guide you will be given prompts and ideas on how to make your own mini monument out of clay using the 'Ambassadors' sculptures as a starting point.

The Ambassadors shows us that it is possible to re-imagine what public monuments could look like and who they represent.

PICK A COUPLE OF THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO HELP YOU DECIDE WHAT MINI MONUMENT TO MAKE.

Who & what do we not see enough of in public sculptures?

IS THERE A FAMOUS FIGURE FROM HISTORY WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HONORED?

IF YOU COULD MAKE A PUBLIC STATUE OF SOMEONE OR SOMETHING WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

WHO IS IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE?

What have they done to make people's lives better?

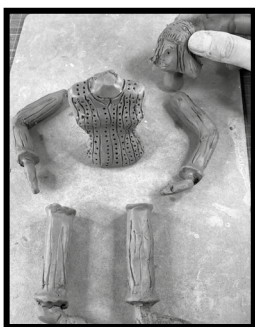
WHERE WOULD YOU PUT THIS MONUMENT IF YOU COULD CHOOSE? WHAT MEANING DOES THIS LOCATION HAVE?

Is there someone alive now? Or what about someone who isn't famous but has had a big impact on your community?



THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY ALIYAH HUSSAIN

Aliyah Hussain (born 1986, Blackburn, UK) is an artist, designer and educator based in West Yorkshire. Her practice approaches themes found within feminist science fiction literature as well as incorporating the decorative and ornamental, taking influence from imagery found within nature, pattern, mathematics, and geology. With a background in performance and a practice rooted in collaboration her work moves across sound, ceramics, and drawing with the methods of collage underpinning each discipline. Recent workshop commissions include Kitchen Table Collective: Dinner Service, At the Library, Crosby (2020-22); Adorning with Clay, Festival of Making, Blackburn (2021-22); Drawing with Clay, Bluecoat, Liverpool (2022).



USE THE PAPER PROVIDED TO SKETCH OUT YOUR IDEAS AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW ON HOW TO MAKE YOUR MINI MONUMENT.

INSTRUCTIONS

MATERIALS: CLAY, WOODEN BOARD, CLAY TOOLS, LOLLY STICK AND PENCIL



1

Make a base for your monument to stand or sit on - roll a palm sized ball of clay and flatten with your hand - use the tool to cut into a different shape if you don't want a circle. Smooth the edges with your finger.



2

You can decorate the edges of your base by drawing patterns or writing their name using your pencils or clay tool.



3

To make a body - roll 4 coils, 1 ball and one oblong - these are the head, arms, legs and body of your person. If you aren't making a person, do the same thing by breaking your design down into manageable shapes.

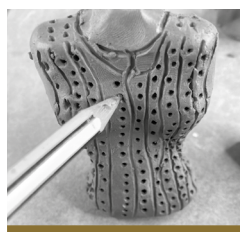
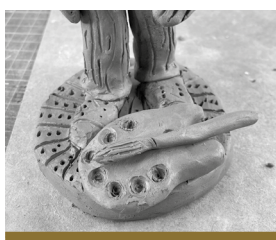
Use your fingers to pinch the clay body parts into shape, thinking about things like knees, elbows and curves.

What else might you need to think about?

Are there any objects you can make and place next to them so we can understand who they are?

Maybe they carry a tool or are in an action pose?

What embellishments might they have?



4

Add in all the detail - use the edge of your tool or pencil to carve in small details like their face, hair and the type of clothes they might wear.



5

Join all the separate body parts together. Use the tool to score the surface of each bit you want to join. The rough surfaces act like velcro and make it stick. Next press your two parts together and smooth and blend around the join so it looks like one piece.

You can construct your monument flat and then make it stand up on its base when you are ready.



6

Use a wooden lolly stick to help prop up your monument at the back.

7

If your monument doesn't stand-up, be creative! Maybe you could make a prop for them to sit on or arrange them flat.



Take your time and don't worry about anything breaking. Use spare wet clay to patch things up. If your clay has dried out just ask for some more.

Take your finished monument to the plinths for a photo!