

## **Matt Brown & Wood Ash Small Ancient 3D-Printed Vases**

When I first heard about the final. I knew I wanted to make some ceramic pieces with a focus on making the pieces look old and ancient. How this would be achieved I had yet to decide.

Whatever piece I made, I wanted it to both be functional as well as look like some ancient relic that could potentially be some piece of ceramic from The Ancient Babolonian Empire, or The Mayan Empire. Or even some old Greek originated artifact. Now that I had a direction and knew roughly what I wanted to accomplish I needed to figure out the actual process. After doing some more research on what I thought were funny parallels, I was reminded about the wonderful 3D-Ceramic Printer we were allowed to use. This got me thinking about what interesting duality could I portray using the 3D-Printer.

Courtesy of Gerri to demonstrate some potential avenues I could take for my final project, I was shown some pictures of a student's previous work. The students' work consisted of handmade common household items with fake famous designer brand names printed on. Although it was clear that they were probably fake, there was still a twinge of doubt because of the cleanness of the decal and the overall simplicity of the piece itself. This student's work got me thinking, I thought this idea was very interesting as well as definitely a potential route for me to do something similar.

Another example of work that got me on the path of intriguing dualities is when I took a look at Ai Wei Wei's Coca Cola vase that he made. The combining of old history with new elements

was an interesting dynamic. The vase used to sport the infamous Coca Cola brand was none other than a valuable relic from the second imperial dynasty of China (206 BC - 220 AD). The vase's intended goal is to shed light on the mass production of huge conglomerate monopolies, the change of the times, as well as serving as a mark that is recognizable to a vast majority of the population that screams the current time period.

After viewing Ai Wei Wei's work, as well as the previous students' work, I was finally able to decide what I wanted to do. After officially disregarding the idea of a massive vase, however tempting it was, I decided on a much smaller medium. Two small Sake sized bottles. I was tempted to once again use decals due to me enjoying the process of using decals with the Plate Stories Project, however, I felt that the decals, no matter what they were, would take away from the overall authenticity of the piece.

After testing, as well as viewing other students' glaze work, I finally decided the two best glazes I could use to make a piece look ancient/historical was Matt Brown and Wood Ash. As far as designing the cups I used a program called POTTWEWARE 4.0 Emerging Objects which simplifies the process of designing a 3D-model of what you want to create. After experimenting on POTTERWARE with potential designs, I decided the standard small vase look would be the most historical looking. I figured that older generally larger ceramic work would be less likely to be completely intact. With this taken into account, I designed the small vase to be 20 cm tall and 5 cm wide. I coated the inside with Perfect White glaze so they were usable as drinkable vessels. The 3D-printer worked great and quickly produced a perfectly proportioned smooth vase that I had been envisioning. I had achieved a comical duality of a piece of work that while was created

through advanced technological means, looked old and withered as if the passage of time had done its worst.



Here is where the image in my head of what duality I wanted to express was coming into vision. What I was going for with this piece was to design an ancient looking vase that was made using modern technology. The 3D Ceramic Printer is quite the engineering feat, and by combining the small vase with Matt Brown and Wood Ash, I hoped to bring forth an interesting duality. A perfectly proportioned and well maintained vase that looked as if it was masterfully crafted by an ancient artisan or ceramicist a long time ago.

[Image of 3d-printed ceramic vase before glaze]



[Matt Brown & Wood Ash glazes on the small 3d-printed vases]



[Matt Brown vase next to Wood Ash vase side by side]