

Whenever I drink tea, it feels like a special occasion. Not because I don't have tea in my apartment, but because the act of making tea usually feels like too much work when compared to just drinking water. By making this teapot that tea making ritual will actually become more complicated (because I can already tell that cleaning it will not be fun) but I will be able to serve tea to more than just myself and therefore have some external pressure to actually make it. There is also a type of tea that I have bought but been unable to brew called pu erh, a fermented Chinese tea. Pu erh has to be brewed in a teapot because part of the brewing ritual is to leave the tea leaves inside the pot and continue adding water, causing the flavor of each successive pot to change slightly. Since the goal is to drink pot after pot of tea, it's best to drink as a group while chatting or eating. I hope to be able to host some meals with my friends when covid is over utilizing this pot. I think by having this be a personal object rather than a gallery object, I am much less worried about the glaze color not being exactly what I had hoped because the imperfections make it seem homemade.

I chose to make a frog shaped teapot because I found one being sold on Japanese amazon for \$75 and figured that if I wanted a teapot that badly, I ought to just make one. I used the red clay because I really like the color of it as well as the muscle that is needed to throw it (vs porcelain, which truly is a nightmare). I am sad that so much of the pot and cups ended up being glazed so very little bare red clay is able to be seen, but I am glad that I used it because of the interesting way that it interacts with how the color of the glaze turns out. Doing this project, I learned a lot about throwing different forms such as the tea spout as well as interlocking forms such as the lid of the

teapot. The actual making of a teapot is also something that I had to learn, because the drying and assembly processes have to be pretty exact.

I would say that my work is more technical than it is conceptual. I was focused on the assembly of the teapot more than I was anything else through the whole process.

As with my other project this semester, this teapot is very kitsch – especially because of how large and frankly unwieldy it is. It definitely feels like a nonfunctional object masquerading as a functional one.











