

Assignment #5: Carved Mass

Due Date: Tuesday, 02-14, 2pm

Materials:

-sketchbook, pencil, 1/2 gallon paperboard juice or milk carton, paring knife or steak knife with serated edge, dust mask, sandpaper, sharpie (You may also find your X-acto knife useful for finishing work). Plaster and some other tools will be provided during class time.

Project Summary:

3-D Design Elements: Geometric and Organic Form, Plane, Light (Value), Mass, Scale

Organizing Principles of Design: Balance, Economy (Simplicity), Unity and Variety

Construction Method: Casting/Subtraction

In this assignment you will be carving a simple shape from a solid block of material (plaster).

Begin this sculpture by casting a block of plaster into a container during class. When the plaster is set, remove the container.

creating one distinct geometric shape, as large as you possibly can, from the given mass of material. This shape should be square, rectangular, pyramidal, cylindrical, oval (elliptical or egg shaped), or spherical. Take away small amounts of material at a time and take great care to reach the geometric shape before proceeding. (This process of finding a simple form within your material is called "roughing out" or "blocking out" and it is a standard practice in subtractive sculpture for work in stone and wood which usually comes to the artist in a natural, organic state. In subtractive sculpture, it is most efficient to remove as little material as possible to reach the desired image so be careful not to remove so much material the the sculpture is much smaller than the geometric shape).

Once you have achieved the geometric shape, take time to sketch a few ideas for how to proceed. The design come from making deep, planar cuts that catch shadow in the natural light. Consider these shadows like a drawing. You can control how light and dark the shadows are by how deeply you cut into the shape. Draw the design onto the Styrofoam with sharpie. Removing small amounts of material at a time, cut away the sharpie marks until the design that remains is caused by shadow.

About the design: This design is meant to be "in the round", so every way you turn the sculpture should include part of the design plan (human faces are not great for this project since we are most interesting on one distinct side). I recommend keeping the design simple and non-representational, piercing the mass at least once and making sure to keep a flat bottom so that the work doesn't roll around.

Written: On one 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper. Make a sketch of this sculpture as a large work of public art in a specific place. Write a paragraph (about 250-500 words, typed, 12pt or larger font) describing you proposal for this work in a public setting (don't just say some random park, be specific and think beyond the park setting). Give details about the materials you would use, research materials if you need to. Describe the exact size of the work, any color or surface treatments you would use and, give your sculpture a name.