

“Learning Curves”

Originally, I enrolled in ART 2410, *Ceramics I*, to satisfy the “Creativity” general education requirement and because my grandmother strongly encouraged me to take it.

After learning the characteristics of the medium of clay, I soon grew to love the medium and became engaged in the ceramic process through initial technical assignments that were followed by conceptual assignments.

Assignments in this class are designed to stimulate creativity and encourage students to develop their own concepts. The final assignment in the class is entitled, “Self Portrait in Metaphor.”

In this assignment, students are asked to identify characteristics of their personality and symbolic ways to represent those characteristics, resulting in a three-dimensional sculptural form that is a metaphorical self-portrait.

I designed and constructed a chess set, the concept stemming from the adjectives “strategist” and “adaptability.” Following the artistic process, I drew designs in my sketchbook, made models, “maquettes,” of the figures, and used test tiles to test glaze surfaces. After everything was fired, I made a base for the ceramic chess board out of wood, to keep it secure and in place.