



Clay Gargoyle Heads

In this lesson, students will be encouraged to think creatively while learning how to handbuild a gargoyle head. This project is all about thinking outside the box to twist, emphasize, and invent human features on a clay bust. Each gargoyle will be a unique result of how the student that made it considers the human face and head structure.

Techniques learned or practiced in this lesson include slipping and scoring, pinching, coiling, modeling, trimming, and glazing.

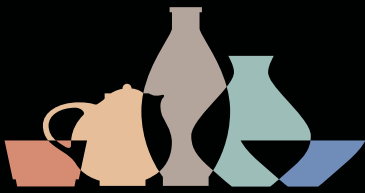
MATERIALS

Clay (1-2 lb balls each)	Carving tools
Slip for attaching	Texture tools
Underglazes	Scoring tool
Clear overglaze	Glazing brushes
Wire cutter	

PROCESS

1. Form the base of your gargoyle head and neck with a ball of clay. This is the time you will decide the basic shape of your gargoyle's skull. Is it round or oblong? Will the neck be stringy or muscular?
2. Cut the head you've made in half with a wire cutter lengthwise and carve out the interior clay to make your piece hollow. This ensures a safe firing. Try to make your clay walls 1/4" thick. Set aside the clay removed from the center of your head to make any additions and decorations later.
3. Put your head back together by slipping and scoring the two pieces and smoothing out the seam.





ROVIN CERAMICS

A M O T A W I C O M P A N Y

4. Add the basic features of your gargoyle's face, ears, hair, horns, etc. You can model these by pulling and pinching clay out of your head base or build them separately and attach them to your head base. Remember to think about facial expressions.

5. Add any additional features you want to give your gargoyle a unique flair. Think about what can give your gargoyle a greater presence or character, such as clothing, fur, scales, etc.

6. Add in any final textures and details needed to complete your unique gargoyle.

7. When your gargoyle is leather hard, you can decorate!

DECORATING and FINISHING

1. Apply underglazes using a variety of brushes as needed.

2. Fire your gargoyle in a bisque kiln (cone 05-04) when it is bone dry.

3. When bisqued and completely cooled, apply a medium-thick coat of clear gloss overglaze on your gargoyle. Make sure the bottom of your gargoyle does not have glaze on it.

4. When the overglaze is dry, fire your gargoyle in a glaze kiln.

