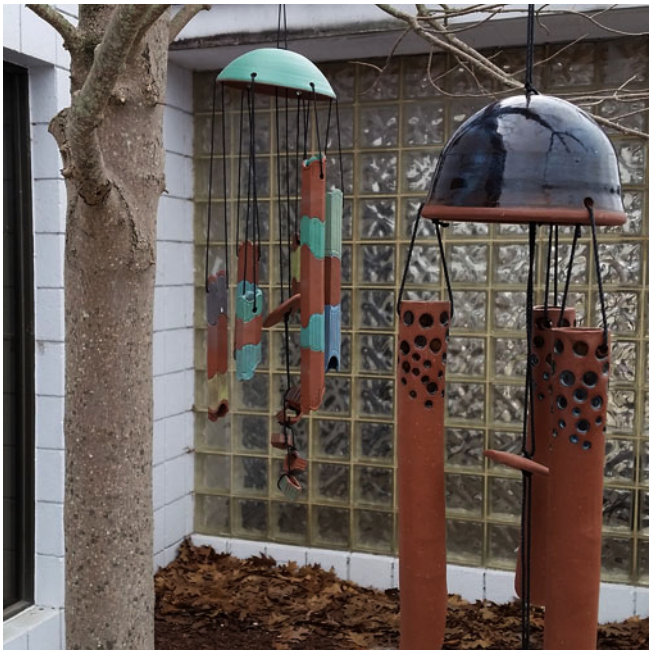
Extruded Ceramic Wind Chimes

Grades 6-12



Objectives

Create a handmade ceramic wind chime
Learn the parts of a windchime and understand how each effects the sound of the chime

Windchime Vocabulary

Base: Chime support located at the top of the windchime where all parts connect
Tube: Hollow parts that are struck by the clapper
Clapper: Center piece that strikes the tubes to create the sound
Feather: or Windcatcher is the part the catches the wind and sets the clapper into motion

Materials Needed

Handheld Clay Extruder & Hollow Die Set
Clay Hole Cutters
Knife
Texture Tools
Bowl Forms for Base
Selection of Glazes
RO82m Clay
Weather Resistant String

Process

1. Discuss and make plans for the wind chimes considering shape, size and number of parts

2. Extrude the tubes for your windchime

3. Cut the tubes to the desired lengths, and decorate with texture tools. Set aside tubes to dry to leather hard

4. Roll out slabs and drape over bowl forms to create your base. Cut to desired size and wet aside to dry to leather hard

5. Hand build a clapper and feather. Depending on the determined shape and size this can be created from a slab or by pinching the clay into the desired shape.

6. Once the base and tubes are leather hard, use the hole cutter to make holes for connecting all the parts with string. Each tube should have 2 holes, the clapper and feather should have at least 1 hole each. The base will need a hole in the center to attach the clapper and feather, and several holes around edge to attach the tubes

7. Allow all the pieces to dry, fire to bisque

Glaze

Paint glaze onto windchime pieces keeping in mind how they will sit in the kiln

Assemble Windchime

1. Using a weather resistant string attach all the pieces of the windchime

2. Attach tubes around the outside edges of the base. Consider hanging them all at the same hieght or variable heights

3. Thread the center string through the base, the clapper and the feather. The tone of the chime will change depending on where the clapper hits the tubes. Adjust the hanging depth of the clapper to find a desirable tone