

# ALL ABOUT CLAY



## RETURN TO EARTH FAMILY GUIDE

### Types of Clay



Red Earthenware Clay



Porcelain



Stoneware Clay

### Construction Techniques



Coiling



Hand Building



Wheel Throwing

### Firing \* Stoneware clay is fired at 2205 degrees Fahrenheit!



Clay is fire baked in a **kiln**



The first step is bisque firing, which hardens the clay



Then the artist may color the surface with glaze and fire it again

### Verbs

These are action words we can use to describe working with clay. You can try these at home with Play-doh, too!

- Squish
- Pull
- Squeeze
- Smooth
- Pinch
- Roll

### Scavenger Hunt

There are objects all around us that are made of clay. Can you find the following things in your home?

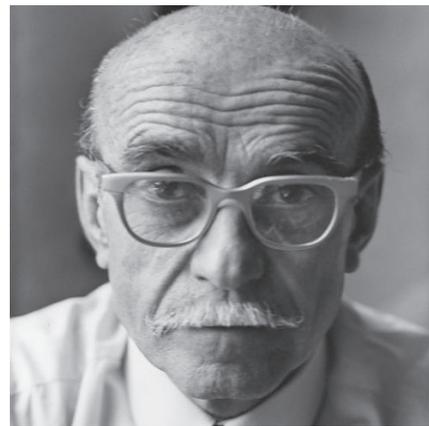
- Vase
  - Mug
  - Plate
  - Piggy Bank
  - Bowl
  - Teapot
  - Tiles
- Can you find other objects made of clay?  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Clay** has been used by artists for many years and has a rich tradition. From 1943-1963 the artists in this exhibition were especially inspired by clay. The contributions of these artists continues to inspire other generations!

### THE ARTISTS IN THIS EXHIBITION ARE FROM:

- ARGENTINA:** Fontana
- ITALY:** Melotti
- SPAIN:** Picasso, Miró
- UNITED STATES:** Noguchi



### Lucio Fontana, 1899 - 1968

"My father was a good sculptor. I wanted to be a sculptor, I would have liked to have been a painter, too, like my grandfather..."

Fontana was painter and sculptor. He was born in Argentina and moved to Italy. Sometimes he made holes or slashes in the canvas or clay to change the way we see the surface. In his sculptures you can see the lumpy textures that reflect his appreciation of chance and accidents.

Lucio Fontana, Harlequin (Arlecchino), 1948, Polychrome ceramic, 21 7/8 x 13 7/8 x 9 7/8 in. (55.5 x 35 x 25 cm), Private Collection, Switzerland, Photo: Saša Fuis, Köln.

## Isamu Noguchi, 1904 - 1988

"Appreciate the moment."



Noguchi was a sculptor, designer, architect and craftsman. He was born in Los Angeles in 1904. He traveled to Paris where he met other artists. In Mexico City he painted murals, and in Japan he designed gardens and fountains. His travels influenced the work he created.

## Fausto Melotti, 1901 - 1986

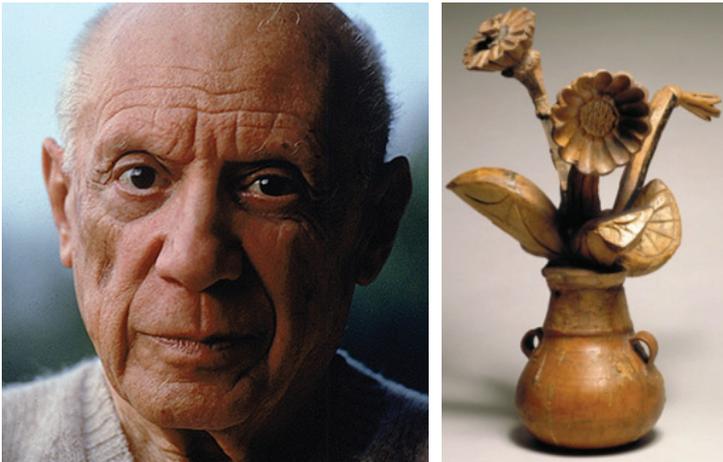
"Art is an angelic, geometric feeling. It addresses the intellect, not the senses."



Melotti was born in Italy. He used plaster, clay and metal to create sculptures. His art was inspired by and combined many forms of art. Melotti was influenced by music and tried to create rhythm and harmony in his artwork. He also enjoyed architecture and created small theaters made of clay.

## Pablo Picasso, 1881 - 1973

"Everything you can imagine is real."



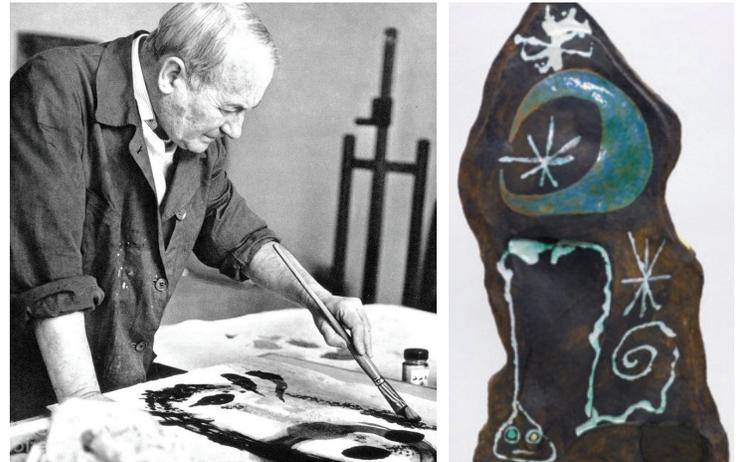
Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain. His father, José Ruiz Blasco was a painter. Picasso began to draw at a young age. In his lifetime he created over 20,000 works of art including paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures, ceramics, theater sets and costumes. Can you find other examples of Picasso's artwork in the garden and galleries?

Top: Isamu Noguchi, The Policeman, 1950, Seto stoneware, 13 3/8 x 8 3/4 x 5 1/8 in. (34 x 22.2 x 13 cm), The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, New York, Photo: © The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, © 2013 The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

Bottom: Pablo Picasso, Flowers in a Vase (Fleurs dans un vase), 1951-53, Painted plaster, terracotta, and iron, 30 1/8 x 20 1/4 x 17 1/4 in. (76.5 x 51.4 x 43.8 cm), Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Photo: David Heald, © 2013 Estate of Pablo Picasso/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

## Joan Miró, 1893-1983

"When I am living in the country, I never think of painting anymore. It's sculpture that interests me. For example, it rains the ground gets wet, I pick up some mud – it becomes a little statuette."



Miró was born in Barcelona, Spain. He had his first solo art show when he was 25. He created paintings, sculptures, collages, murals, sets and costumes for the ballet. He had a great imagination and could see the possibilities in everyday objects. Can you find other examples of Miró's sculptures in the garden?

Top: Fausto Melotti, Circles (Cerchi), 1950-60, Glazed ceramic, nylon, and brass, 16 3/8 x 13 3/4 x 2 in. (41.5 x 35 x 5 cm), Private Collection, Photo: Martino Mascherpa, © Archivio Fausto Melotti, Milan

Bottom: Joan Miró and Josep Llorens Artigas, Stone, 1955, Earthenware, 32 1/2 x 16 1/4 x 5 in. (82.7 x 41 x 12.7 cm), The Art Institute of Chicago, Wirt D. Walker Fund, Photo: Courtesy Art Institute Chicago, © 2013 Successió Miró/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris