

## Adopt an Artwork 2025 -2026

### Mini Furniture

*Tea Table, "Big" Tom Burton and Spice Chest attributed to Joel Bailey*

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Mariner Middle School

6th-7th

Visual Art

### OVERVIEW

Based on historical furniture references (including Tom Burton's Tea Table and Joel Baily's Spice Chest), mid-century modern furniture, modern and contemporary furniture design, student-designed furniture, etc., students will utilize a variety of materials to plan, scale, and create a three-dimensional model of a piece of furniture at a 1:6 scale. [We worked at a 1:6 scale so it would be large enough to work with but small enough to store 150+ artworks. This scale was also the appropriate scale for our wooden art mannequins to sit in the chairs or on the couches. Any scale could be used and templates adjusted as needed.]

### TIME REQUIRED

Approximately six-seven 45 minute class periods

## STANDARDS FOR INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

- [Investigate] Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- VA:Cr2.1.7a Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art or design.
- [Investigate] Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- VA:Cr2.3.7a Apply visual organizational strategies to design and produce a work of art, design, or media that clearly communicates information or ideas.
- [Perceive] Anchor Standard 11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.
- VA:Cn11.1.7a Analyze how response to art is influenced by understanding the time and place in which it was created, the available resources, and cultural uses.

## STUDENT "I CAN STATEMENTS"

- I can work through challenges in creating works of art and design.
- I can develop skills with various materials and methods.
- I can use visual composition strategies to design a meaningful work of art that communicates information or ideas.
- I can analyze how responses to art are influenced by understanding the time and place in which it was created, the resources and cultural uses.

## MATERIALS

- Any Mediums:
  - Mini Marking and Measuring
  - IKEA Gingerbread Furniture Kit Templates
- Wood Based:
  - O'Shine Ratchet Mitre Shears
  - Miter Box and Saw Set
  - Small Dowels and/or Wooden Spindles
  - Wood/Scaled Lumber
  - Wooden Popsicle Sticks
  - Elmer's White Glue or Wood Glue
  - Various-sized binder clips and clothespins
  - Sandpaper (various grits)
  - Minwax Wood Stain
  - Hardware:
    - Brass Fasteners
    - Chicago Screws
    - Mini Hinges
- Cardboard/Upholstered Mini Furniture:
  - Fabric
  - Batting
  - Cardboard/Chipboard/Foam Core
  - X-Acto Blades
  - Box Cutting Tools
  - Makedo Cardboard Cutting Tools
  - Elmer's White Glue or Wood Glue

- Various-sized binder clips and clothespins
- Cardboard boxes of various sizes
- Tiny magnets
- Hardware:
  - Brass Fasteners
  - Chicago Screws
  - Mini Hinges
- Clay-Based Project:
  - Standard White Low Fire 105 Clay
  - Rib Tools
  - Needle Tools
  - Feather Texture Brush
  - Stylus
  - Rolling Pins
  - Sponges (cut small)
  - Slab Mats
  - Scale
  - Glaze of Choice

## LESSON ACTIVITIES

### Lesson 1. Introduction to Furniture as Art

- Explore cultural and historical influences in furniture design.
- Compare functional v. decorative elements
- Warm Up: Visual analysis of Big Tom Burton's Tea Table
  - Key points —utilizing found objects, mixed mediums, craftsmanship, physical balance
  - Studio Time: Furniture research & sketches

### Lesson 2. Introduction to Furniture as Art

- Warm Up: Analysis of Joel Baily's Spice Chest
  - Key points — multi-part construction, drawers, frame, and doors, symmetry, hidden compartments)
  - Studio Time: Furniture research & sketches
    - Google Arts & Culture — Furniture Collection

### Lesson 3. Understanding Scale & Proportion (1:6 Scale)

- Learn to convert full-size measurements to a 1:6 scale.
- Practice proportional drawing / Annotate sketches with scaled measurements.
- Warm Up:
  - How to measure.
  - Converting inches to 1:6 scale (divide all measurements by 6).
- Studio Time:
  - Students measure classroom furniture and convert dimensions.
  - Students create scaled drawings on AVID-style focused note paper.
  - Formative Assessment: Convert a standard chair (18" → 3" height).

### Lesson 4. Understanding Scale & Proportion (1:6 Scale)

- Demonstration of perspective and orthographic technical sketches based on historical examples.
- Studio Time:
  - Students select a historical and/or contemporary piece of furniture for inspiration.
  - Students produce:
    - Idea sketches

- Fully measured & scaled blueprints
- Material planning notes
- Peer review for accuracy and clarity.

#### Lesson 5. Prototype Construction (Paper/Cardboard Maquettes)

- Build a 3D prototype to evaluate structure and scale.
- Learn safe tool and material techniques.
- Build miniature furniture using multiple materials.
- Students build a quick model based on their blueprints.
  - Evaluate for balance, structural strength, leg proportion, drawer alignment, etc.
  - Students revise sketches based on prototype findings.

#### Lesson 6. Prototype Construction (Paper/Cardboard Maquettes)

- Students begin constructing their final piece using blueprint and prototype as guides. \*For any medium, starting with paper templates is helpful; templates can be adapted to unique forms as needed.
- Teacher and/or conferences on structure, balance, and craftsmanship.
- Students document progress in their sketchbooks and with photographs.

#### Lessons 7-10: Mini Furniture Building and Finishing

- Lessons will vary depending on mediums used. For cardboard, demonstrations of safe tool use would be appropriate. If working with wood, lessons would include demonstrations of how to use woodworking tools, attaching, sanding, and finishing. We worked in small groups for this section with pop-up demonstrations of different skills/techniques/tools.
- If working in clay - students would need to learn:
  - How to roll slabs of clay (on slab roller or with rolling pins and thickness guides)
  - Stages of clay - letting clay stiffen up a little to hold its form before attaching (ideally between Plastic and Leather Hard).
  - How to attach clay (1. Score, 2. Slip, 3. Stick, 4. Smooth)

### ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

- Formative:
  - Sketches of furniture design from multiple angles
  - Annotations with measurements/technical sketches at scale
- Summative:
  - Creation of scale furniture (1:6 scale) with mixed media
    - Challenge Level 3 - cabinet/dresser with drawers, complex forms, furniture with movement (i.e. folding chair), upholstered furniture; design your own furniture.
    - Challenge Level 2 - Chair/couch with or without cushion, bookshelf.
    - Challenge Level 1 - Table / Stool; simple form

### VOCABULARY

- Sculpture Vocabulary:
  - Armature — An armature is a supportive framework or structure used as a foundation or skeleton to provide stability and shape to sculptures, models, or other three-dimensional artworks.
  - Artist Statement — An artist statement is a written document in which an artist describes their artistic practice, motivations, creative

intentions, and the meaning behind their artwork, providing insight into their creative process and artistic philosophy.

- Construct — To make something by joining together materials; to build.
- Craftsmanship — Skill, knowledge and neatness resulting in quality workmanship.
- Physical/Actual Balance — to the overall distribution of physical weight in a composition of a sculpture; balance allows 3-dimensional artworks to stand without falling over.
- Visual Balance — the overall distribution of visual weight in a composition. A well-balanced composition feels comfortable to look at.
- Mixed Media — Mixed media refers to an artwork that is created using more than one type of media or materials.
- Model — A model is a three-dimensional representation or replica of an object, structure, or concept, often used for study, visualisation, or demonstration purposes in fields such as architecture, engineering, and design.
- Scale — the actual size of an artwork or the size of the objects in an artwork; the ratio of the length of the drawing to the actual length of the object being modeled or drawn.
- Two-Point Perspective — a type of linear perspective that uses two vanishing points on the horizon to create an illusion of depth and spatial organization in a two-dimensional image.
- Clay Vocabulary:
  - Ceramics - The art of making objects from clay and hardening them in a kiln.
  - Coil - A rope-like length of clay that is used to make a coil pot or sculpture.
  - Slab — flat pieces of clay; can be rolled out with a rolling pin or slab roller.
  - How to attach clay:
    - 1) Score – to scratch hatch marks into clay.
    - 2) Slip - A creamy mixture of clay and water; apply between the pieces you are attaching (functions like glue for clay).
    - 3) Stick - Press the pieces of clay together.
    - 4) Smooth - Smooth out the seams where the clay is joined.
  - Stages of Clay:
    - 1) Slip — Slip is clay with added water to make it into a paste or liquid.
    - 2) Plastic / Wet — clay is soft, wet, and easily molded into different forms; must be covered with plastic to remain in this stage.
    - 3) Leather Hard — clay has dried slightly but is still wet enough to be shaped; shrinkage is complete; it has a similar consistency to leather and can be handled gently without deforming
    - 4) Bone Dry — clay is dry enough to be fired; feels room temperature to the touch; is delicate and breakable; needs careful handling. Bone Dry clay needs to be fired in the kiln in order to make it strong enough to use.
    - 5) Bisque Fired / Bisque Ware — clay has been fired once in the kiln; firing permanently changes the chemical and physical nature of the clay, and it can no longer revert to earlier stages. Clay at this stage is hard but still porous

- 6) Glaze Fired / Glaze Ware — After adding glaze layers (usually 3 coats of glaze), pieces are fired a second time and clay and glaze fuse, making a non-porous surface; this is the final, finished stage of clay.

- ## RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

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