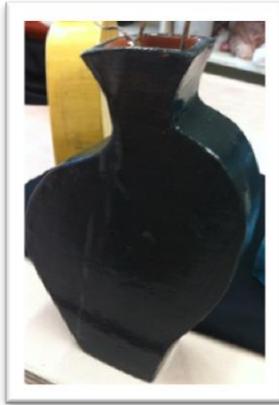


# CLAY Construction- starring.... TAR PAPER!

## *Vase / Abstract Vessels*

with Amy Cranfill <http://www.amyswindowseat.com>

and Stephanie Pickens <http://www.stephaniepickens.com/>



**MATERIALS** Clay, canvas, newsprint (to draw templates), TAR PAPER, pencil, plastic bags, wood, brayer, clay knife,



**RECYCLE HINT** Tar Paper is recyclable!! Call your local Waste Transfer Station for details.

### ***Construction Procedures***

1. Design, Draw, Cut Out the template. Make sure you identify each side with an appropriate letters or numbers – so that you understand what sides connect together. Don't forget the bottom piece- which is a combination of the bottoms of all your side pieces.
2. Trace your templates onto the tar paper – you can use a pencil. Don't forget to label your new pattern pieces with the corresponding letters or numbers you used to identify the sides.
3. Cut out your new pattern shapes from the tar paper using scissors.
4. Create your clay slabs by throwing, or rolling you clay out (use ¼ inch dowel rods for guides). These slabs need to be big enough for all your pattern pieces to lay out on the surface.
5. Next step is to attach the Tar Paper to the clay. First spritz the surface of the slabs with a spray bottle- you don't want water to pool, just enough to dampen the surface.

6. Lay the tar paper on the surface and use a brayer to press the tar paper into the clay- you don't want to press too hard and thin out the clay.
7. Use a clay tool to cut the clay around the tar paper pattern. LEAVE THE TAR PAPER ON THE CLAY! Now you have all the pieces to your vessel!
8. TRICKY PART COMING! Lay all your pieces so the tar paper is side DOWN. The sides of your pieces need to be beveled so that they will come together smoothly. I use a clay knife or Xacto. The bevel needs to slant down to the tar paper at a 45 degree angle. Do your best- it's a practice makes perfect technique. Do all the edges of your pieces EXCEPT the top edge which will be the lip of your vessel.

9. ASSEMBLY- use normal slip and score procedures to connect the edges of each piece together. Trim the edges of the tar paper if they prevent the clay from sealing together because of overlapping.
10. Use a wooden spoon or paddle to gently smack the edges together. I also recommend reinforcing the inside sealed edge with a thin coil of clay. Smooth the coil into the crease.
11. Allow your project to dry slowly. As the clay becomes leather hard, the tar paper will begin to peel away. Now you can add cut outs, designs, and textures –clean up your work and let it dry!

