TAKE + *Make*

CLAY
ANIMALS
with Dan Kaczka

Ages: 3+ (with an adult)
Duration: 1 hour

Use your imagination to create to a fun animal. Form your animal from clay and paint your creation to make it come to life!

In addition to your kit, you will need: Objects found at home with interesting textures, paint brushes, a sharpened pencil or skewer, a fork, a small container filled with water.

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

Where could your animal live?

What does it eat?

Does it have any special abilities?

Who are its friends?

What more could you add to it (habitat, toys, additional details, etc.)?

How can people better care for the animals and nature all around you?

1. Think of an animal you would like to create. It can be a real animal, a combination creature, or a completely new creation.

2. Roll a piece of clay between your hands to make the body. Move your hands around to create a round body, or back and forth to make an oval.

3. Roll a smaller piece of clay to make the head. Use your thumb, index, and middle fingers to pinch out a nose/snout/trunk.

4. Attach the head to your body by first scratching with your clay tools/fork where both pieces will meet. Use your finger to rub a little water on the scratches to make slip. Press the two pieces together and smooth the seam with finger or clay tool.

5. Get another piece of clay and pinch it between your fingers to make the legs/arms/tail. Scratch and slip these onto your animal as well.

6. Use your clay tools/skewer/pencil to add details to your animal. Create an indent for the eyes and scribe in the mouth. Add other details like toes/hoofs/fingers. Create a pattern on your creature with your tools and texture objects to add fur/scales/skin.

7. After your clay has dried, you're ready to paint it. Feel free to mix colors. Highlight your details, textures, and patterns with your paint.

Dan Kaczka is an instructor at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond and local public school educator. Dan has decades of experience creating clay artworks. He believes that art is for everyone, and everyone can make art.

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