

# Nasco ARTWORKS

## NASCO COLOR SCULPT MASK MAKING

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A MASK IS "A COVER OR PARTIAL COVER FOR THE FACE USED FOR DISGUISE" (MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY). MADE AND WORN FOR MANY DIFFERENT REASONS, MASKS OFFER A GLIMPSE INTO UNIQUE AND DISTINCT CULTURES.

#### AFRICA

WHETHER WORN DURING TIMES OF PEACE, WAR, CELEBRATION, OR RITES OF PASSAGE, MASK WEARING WAS AND STILL IS A CORNERSTONE TO CERTAIN AFRICAN TRIBAL HISTORIES AND RITUALS. SOME CEREMONIES REVOLVED AROUND THE FERVENT BELIEF OF THE MASK'S POWER AND INFLUENCE ON THE WEARER. IT WAS REVERED AS A MEDIUM TO THE SPIRIT WORLD. MASKS VARY IN SIZE, SOMETIMES MUCH LARGER THAN THE PERSON'S FACE IN ORDER TO CONVEY A SUPERNATURAL PERSONA. COMMONLY CARVED FROM WOOD, THE MASKS COULD BE DECORATED WITH MANY DIFFERENT MATERIALS, INCLUDING BEADS, NATURAL DYES, FUR, OR SHELLS. TODAY, THESE MASKS ARE HIGHLY REGARDED WORKS OF ART.

#### JAPAN

STAGE ACTORS IN NOH PERFORMANCES, A CENTURIES-OLD THEATRICAL TRADITION IN JAPAN, WEAR WOODEN MASKS CARVED SPECIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THEIR CHARACTER'S PERSONALITY AND EMOTIONS. SUCH INCREDIBLE WORKMANSHIP GOES INTO THE MAKING OF THESE UNIQUE CREATIONS THAT CARVERS CAN DEVOTE MONTHS TO JUST ONE MASK! THESE PERFORMANCES STILL TAKE PLACE TODAY WITH NOH MASKS INTENSELY SOUGHT BY COLLECTORS.

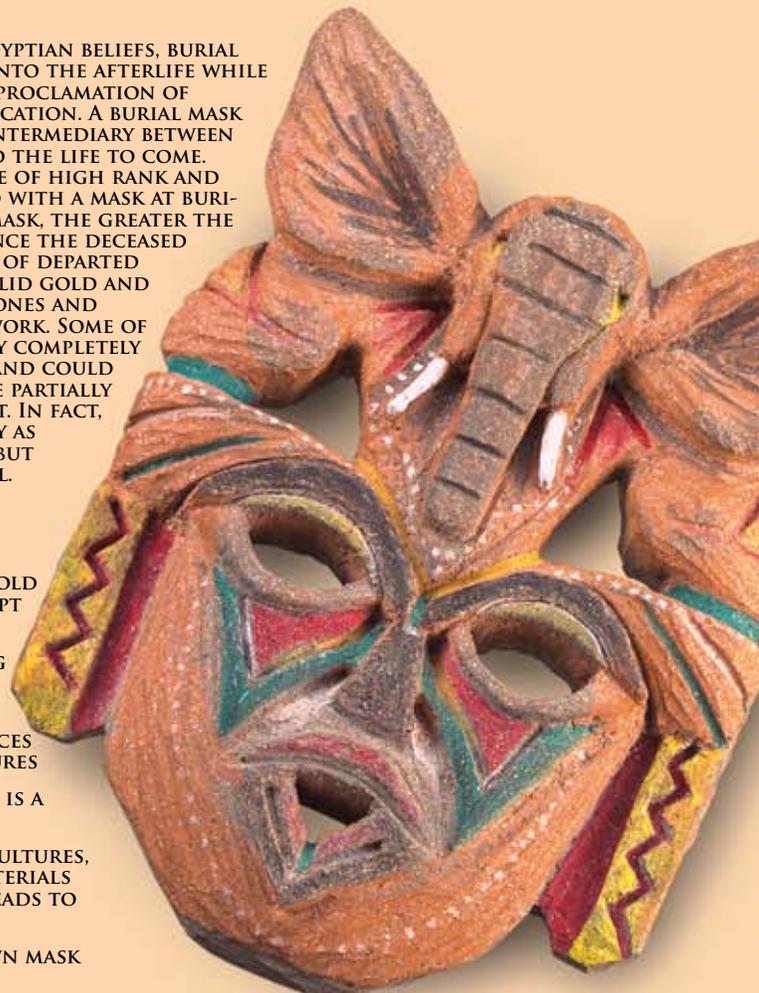
#### ANCIENT EGYPT

ACCORDING TO ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BELIEFS, BURIAL MASKS PROVIDED TRANSITION INTO THE AFTERLIFE WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY SERVING AS A PROCLAMATION OF STATUS AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION. A BURIAL MASK WAS BELIEVED TO SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE REALMS OF THE LIVING AND THE LIFE TO COME. USUALLY, HOWEVER, ONLY THOSE OF HIGH RANK AND SIGNIFICANCE WERE PRIVILEGED WITH A MASK AT BURIAL. THE MORE ELABORATE THE MASK, THE GREATER THE WEALTH, STATUS, AND IMPORTANCE THE DECEASED POSSESSED DURING LIFE. MASKS OF DEPARTED ROYALTY COULD BE MADE OF SOLID GOLD AND DECORATED WITH PRECIOUS STONES AND STUNNINGLY INTRICATE PAINTWORK. SOME OF THE MASKS WERE SO LARGE THEY COMPLETELY COVERED THE FACE AND HEAD AND COULD REST ON THE SHOULDERS WHILE PARTIALLY COVERING THE BACK AND CHEST. IN FACT, BURIAL MASKS SERVED NOT ONLY AS AN ADORNMENT FOR SOCIETAL BUT PHYSICAL RECOGNITION AS WELL.

### OBJECTIVES:

STUDENTS WILL...

- LEARN HOW TO CREATE THE MOLD OF A MASK USING COLOR SCULPT
- GAIN POSITIVE, FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE IN RELIEF CARVING FROM PERFORMING SIMPLE CARVING REQUIREMENTS
- UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCES OF MASKS IN DIFFERENT CULTURES
- DISCOVER THAT MASK-MAKING IS A FORM OF ART
- LEARN THAT DEPENDING ON CULTURES, MASKS COULD BE MADE OF MATERIALS RANGING FROM WOOD AND BEADS TO SOLID GOLD AND JEWELS
- HAVE FUN CREATING THEIR OWN MASK



## DIRECTIONS:

1. FOLLOW MIXING DIRECTIONS INCLUDED WITH COLOR SCULPT KIT.
2. AFTER CASTING, LET THE SCULPTURE SET OVERNIGHT PRIOR TO CARVING.
3. FROM PLASTIC TABLEWARE TO WOOD CARVING TOOLS, ALMOST ANY INSTRUMENT WILL WORK TO CARVE COLOR SCULPT — YOU'LL BE AMAZED AT HOW EASY AND SAFE IT IS TO CARVE!
4. COLOR SCULPT AIR DRIES TO A HARD, LIGHTWEIGHT FORM AND ITS NATURAL COLOR.
5. ADD COLOR AND LIFE TO YOUR MASK BY EXPERIMENTING WITH GLOSS MEDIUM, WATER-BASED, OR ACRYLIC PAINT. MARBLING CAN BE ACHIEVED BY MIXING TWO BAGS AT THE SAME TIME AND ALTERNATELY POURING INTO YOUR MOLD.
6. MIXTURE REMAINS EASY TO CARVE FOR MANY DAYS WHEN COVERED IN PLASTIC BETWEEN USES.
7. EACH BAG OF COLOR SCULPT WILL PRODUCE A 1-GALLON BLOCK OR TWO ½-GALLON, 4-QUART, 8-PINT, ETC., BLOCKS.

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

•COLOR SCULPT IS A QUICK, EASY, AND ECONOMICAL DRY MIX MEDIUM THAT DRIES TO A HARD, LIGHTWEIGHT FORM, GIVING STUDENTS A SCULPTURE THAT WILL LAST FOR YEARS! CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING GROUP PACKS.

**COLOR SCULPT VARIETY PACK — 9706169.** CONTAINS TWELVE 4¾-LB. BAGS. THIS ALLOWS EACH STUDENT IN AN AVERAGE CLASS OF 24 TO HAVE A ½-GAL. VOLUME FORM TO CARVE (E.G., MILK CARTON). COLORS INCLUDE: GRAY, BLUE, GREEN, ORANGE, BROWN, VIOLET, ROSE, AND WHITE. SH. WT. 60 LBS.

**EARTHEN PACK — 9708171.** INCLUDES A TOTAL OF TWELVE 4¾-LB. BAGS. FOUR BAGS EACH OF GRAY, BROWN, AND WHITE. SH. WT. 60 LBS.

- WOOD-CARVING TOOLS (0300874, 9712874, 1300116) AND/OR PLASTIC TABLEWARE
- SHOEBOXES LINED WITH PLASTIC
- SHEET PLASTIC OR PLASTIC BAGS

## ADDITIONAL/OPTIONAL MATERIALS:

- GLOSS MEDIUM
- WATER-BASED PAINT
- ACRYLIC PAINT
- BEADS
- SHELLS
- DECORATIVE “JEWELS”
- CLEAR-DRYING GLUE (E.G., ELMER'S® GLUE)
- HALF-GALLON MILK/JUICE CARTONS
- EXAMPLES OF HENRY MOORE'S SEMI-ABSTRACT SCULPTURES
- STYROFOAM® (E.G., STYROFOAM® FROM MEAT TRAYS)
- PAPER CUPS WITH FLAT AND SMOOTH INSIDE BOTTOMS (E.G., DIXIE® CUPS)
- 1-PINT TO ½-GALLON WAX-LINED MILK/JUICE CARTONS
- 2-LITER PLASTIC POP BOTTLES, OATMEAL CONTAINERS, OR ANY CIRCULAR, PLASTIC-LINED CONTAINERS

## HELPFUL HINTS:

COLOR SCULPT IS EASY TO CARVE, HOWEVER, TO KEEP STUDENTS FROM GETTING DISCOURAGED, KEEP THE SUBJECT MATTER SIMPLE. HAVE STUDENTS DRAW THE PROPOSED SCULPTURE ON PAPER FIRST, USING THE SAME DIMENSIONS AS THE BLOCK INTENDED FOR SCULPTING. PROPER PLANNING CAN MAKE THE ACTUAL CARVING MUCH EASIER AND THE FINISHED SCULPTURE MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL. AVOID CARVING AWAY LARGE CHUNKS OF COLOR SCULPT IN ITS MOIST STAGE — TOO MUCH STRESS CAN CAUSE BREAKAGE. **NOTE:** STUDENTS MAY ALSO HAVE A TENDENCY TO CARVE AWAY MORE OF THE BLOCK THAN IS NEEDED. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT A GLOSS MEDIUM BE USED TO SEAL YOUR FINISHED PROJECT.



MAKE  
YOUR MOLD...

CARVE  
YOUR MASK..



DECORATE...

AND  
YOU'RE  
FINISHED!



## PROJECT EXTENSIONS:

### MODERN/ABSTRACT

- 1/2-GALLON MILK/JUICE CARTONS
- EXAMPLES OF HENRY MOORE'S SEMI-ABSTRACT SCULPTURES

A MORE CHALLENGING UNDERTAKING FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT OF RELIEF CARVING. USING EXAMPLES OF HENRY'S MOORE'S SEMI-ABSTRACT SCULPTURES, STUDENTS ARE GIVEN THE FREEDOM TO CREATE A SCULPTURE BY USING SIMPLIFIED, ROUNDED CARVING TO CREATE A SHAPE THAT IS INFLUENCED BY THE STUDENT WITHOUT BEING A MIRROR IMAGE. SKETCHES OF DESIRED FORM SHOULD STILL BE MADE BY THE STUDENT BEFORE CARVING BEGINS. ANY NUMBER OF CONTAINERS CAN BE USED FOR THIS PROJECT IN PRODUCING THE CARVING BLOCK. A HALF-GALLON WAX-COATED MILK OR JUICE CARTON IS RECOMMENDED.

### LOW RELIEF

- SHOE BOXES LINED WITH PLASTIC

CHOOSE FROM A WIDE ARRAY OF TIME PERIODS WITH THIS CARVING STYLE. EARLY EGYPTIAN, ROMAN, GREEK, OR OTHER STYLES OFFER A WEALTH OF EXAMPLES FROM WHICH TO ILLUSTRATE. CREATE YOUR CARVING BLOCK BY USING A SHOE BOX LINED WITH PLASTIC.

### CASTING

- STYROFOAM®

STUDENTS CAN CREATE THEIR OWN MOLD FOR CASTING USING THE KIND OF STYROFOAM® USED FOR MEAT TRAYS. JUST CUT OUT THE DESIRED SHAPES AND PIECE THEM TOGETHER WITH WIDE ADHESIVE TAPE OR GLUE. ONCE THE MOLD IS COMPLETED, POUR COLOR SCULPT® ONTO THE MOLD AND ALLOW IT SET. COLOR SCULPT® WILL NOT ADHERE TO PLASTIC OR STYROFOAM®, MAKING MOLD REMOVAL EASY. TEXTURE THE SCULPTURE FOR A DIFFERENT EFFECT!

### STAMPS

- PAPER CUPS WITH A FLAT, SMOOTH, INSIDE BOTTOM
- GLOSS MEDIUM
- INK STAMP

A FUN AND EXCITING PROJECT FOR THE LOWER GRADES. USING A PAPER CUP WITH A FLAT, SMOOTH INSIDE BOTTOM, POUR APPROXIMATELY 1 1/2 INCHES OF COLOR SCULPT® IN THE CUP AND ALLOW TO SET OVERNIGHT. TURN THE CUP UPSIDE DOWN AND TAP THE BOTTOM TO MAKE COLOR SCULPT® POP OUT. USING POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE TECHNIQUES, LET STUDENTS CARVE A DESIGN IN THE SMOOTH SIDE OF THE FORM AND THEN SET ASIDE AND ALLOW TO DRY. ONCE DRIED, APPLY A THIN COAT OF GLOSS MEDIUM TO THE CARVED AREA. THE GLOSS MEDIUM PROVIDES A BARRIER TO RESIST THE INK BEING ABSORBED INTO THE FORM FROM THE STAMP PAD. ONE BAG WILL PRODUCE A LARGE NUMBER OF PIECES FOR THIS PROJECT. **HINT:** COLOR SCULPT® WILL PRODUCE A LARGE NUMBER OF MOLDS IN THIS PROJECT AND SHOULD BE POURED QUICKLY TO AVOID BECOMING TOO THICK.

### CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN SCULPTURE

- 1-PINT TO 1/2-GALLON WAX-LINED MILK/JUICE CARTONS (DEPENDING ON DESIRED SCULPTURE SIZE)
- PLASTIC TABLEWARE OR STANDARD CARVING TOOLS

EXAMPLES OF MONOLITHIC STATUES OF STANDING DEITIES OFFER AN EXCELLENT BEGINNING SCULPTURE PROJECT. BLOCKS FOR THIS PROJECT ARE CREATED BY USING 1-PINT TO 1/2-GALLON WAX-LINED MILK OR JUICE CARTONS, DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE SCULPTURE. THE SQUARE SHAPE OF THE STATUES MATCH WELL WITH THE COLOR SCULPT® BLOCK FOR MINIMAL CARVING TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED SCULPTURE. LOWER LEVEL CLASSES CAN USE SIMPLE CARVING INSTRUMENTS, SUCH AS PLASTIC TABLEWARE, WHILE UPPER LEVEL CLASSES CAN ACHIEVE MORE DETAIL WITH STANDARD WOOD CARVING TOOLS.

### TOTEM POLES

- 2-LITER PLASTIC POP BOTTLES, OATMEAL CONTAINERS, OR ANY CIRCULAR, PLASTIC-LINED CONTAINERS
- OPTIONAL: POSTER BOARD, TAPE, AND PLASTIC FOR LINING

STUDENTS OF ALL AGES ENJOY STUDYING ABOUT TOTEM POLES OF NORTHWEST INDIAN TRIBES. THERE ARE MANY WONDERFUL BOOKS WITH EXCELLENT ILLUSTRATIONS OF TOTEM POLES AND INDIAN STORIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL TOTEM POLE CHARACTERS TO USE AS A WHOLE LANGUAGE EXERCISE. HAVE STUDENTS CREATE THEIR OWN CHARACTERS AND WRITE A STORY ABOUT THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH CHARACTER. THE CYLINDER FORM CAN BE CREATED BY USING TWO-LITER POP BOTTLES, OATMEAL CONTAINERS, OR ANY CIRCULAR CONTAINER LINED WITH PLASTIC. FOR A TALLER COLOR SCULPT® FORM, ROLL POSTER BOARD INTO A CYLINDER OF DESIRED THICKNESS AND TAPE EDGES. LINE INSIDE WITH PLASTIC FOR EASY RELEASE.

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