# Chapter # 4
# SCULPTURE MAKING

## 4.1. Introduction

Sculpture is one of the oldest branches of Visual Arts. It is three dimensional form of a visual representation. It is also called plastic art. Usually the known sculptural forms are carvings in stone and wood (chiseling and removing of the material to make the visual); this is also called relief sculpture, the round sculpture (three-dimensional representation of visuals using clay, stone, wood, metal, paper and many other materials). Now a days, there is a complete freedom to choose the material and process of sculpture making and as a result there is a vast variety of sculpture making by welding, joining, mixing, molding and casting procedures.

Commonly we can find sculpture in the following types:

1. Free standing round sculpture: it can be in any material like clay, stone, any metal, bronze, copper, glass' wires, plaster, fiberglass etc. For having a complete look of the type of sculpture one must walk around it.

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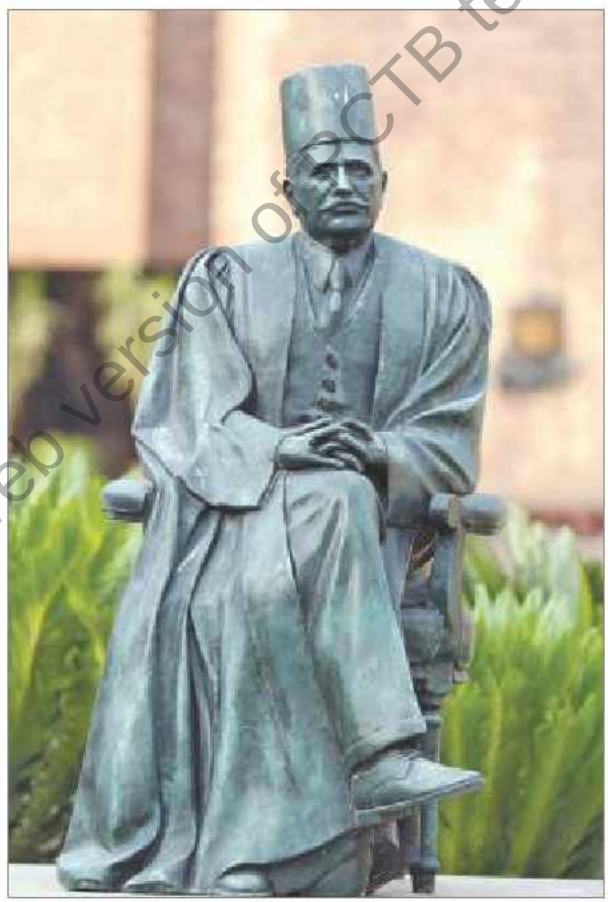

Figure 4.1 Round Sculpture: A Fiberglass sculpture of Allama Muhammad Iqbal (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ), The national Poet of Pakistan, at Alhamrah Art council the Mall Road Lahore

2. Relief Sculpture: this type of sculpture is produced from a flat surface and can be viewed entirely from the front. Making of relief sculpture is usually practice through three kinds of methods.

I) Base_relief: in which the design is managed in slightly raised surface from a flat background.
ii) Sunken relief: it is also known as intaglio relief. In this process the artists create designs by carving out the flat background surface; either the design appears in the carved-out area or the untouched area of the background.
iii) High relief: in this category the design of figures are prominently and dramatically raised from the flat background and artists can show more than two levels of the raised designs.

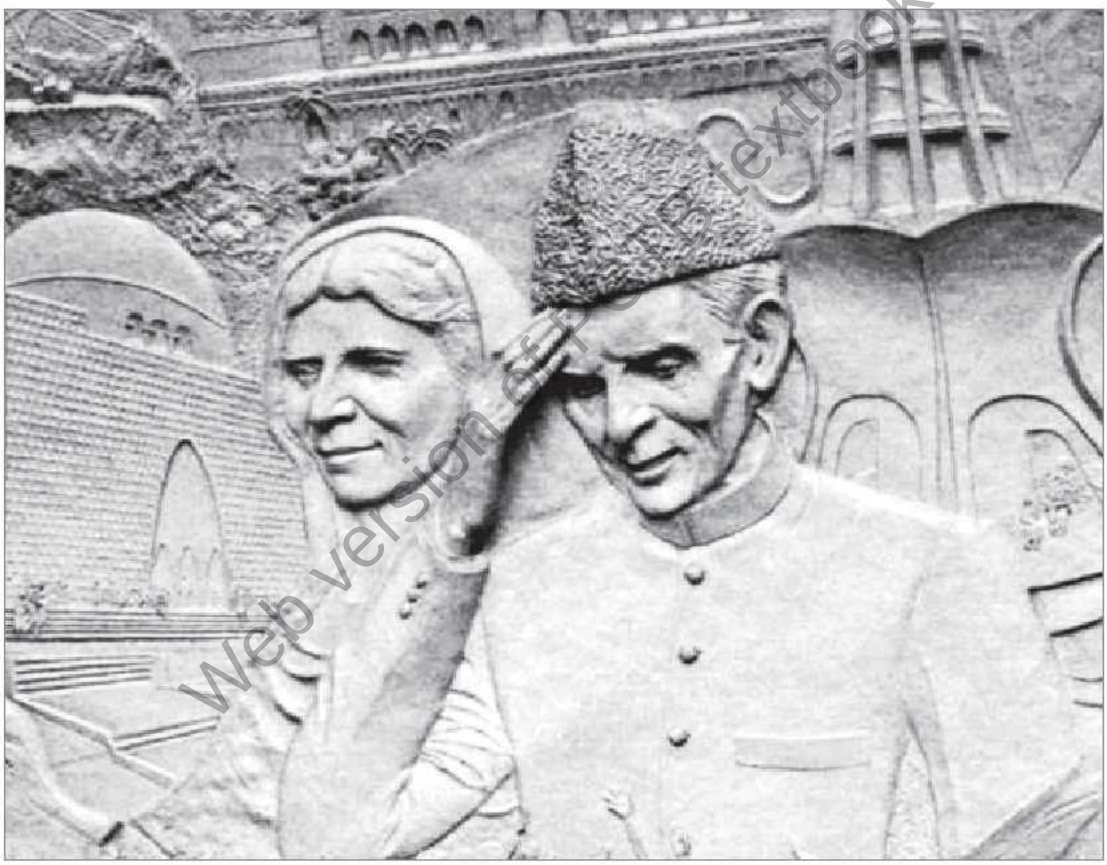

Figure 4.2 Bas-Relief, depicting the portraits of Muhammad Ali Jinnah (رحمۃ اللہ علیہ) and his sister Fatima Jinnah by Koasar Jahan Ara and Team, National Monument of Pakistan Rawalpindi.

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Figure 4.3 High Relief, Schist relief depicting wine consumption and Corinthian column, Ghandhara regions Pakistan

One of the most common usages of sculpture in the world since the ancient period is religious. Ancient Neolithic sculpture like Venus of Willendorf, Egyptian reliefs and round sculpture, Mesopotamian and Sumerian sculpture, Indus seals and terracotta figurines, Hindu sculpture, Buddhist sculpture and Jain sculptures are the examples which are mostly associated with the religions. In modern times there are several practices of this art form. It is used for artistic expression, embellishment of architectural surfaces and environmental art.

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Figure 4.4 Sunken Relief, Details of ancient Egyptian sunken relief depicting the god of Nile, Hapy and Hieroglyphs.

Figure 4.5 Gilgamesh and a lion, a sculpture form Mesopotamian culture

## Making of Sculpture

Initially the students will focus on creating three dimensional basic forms using the materials like clay and paper. They will learn how to make a simplified three dimensional compositions with basic shapes both in clay and paper. Students will observe three dimensional shapes in the image given below for such practices.

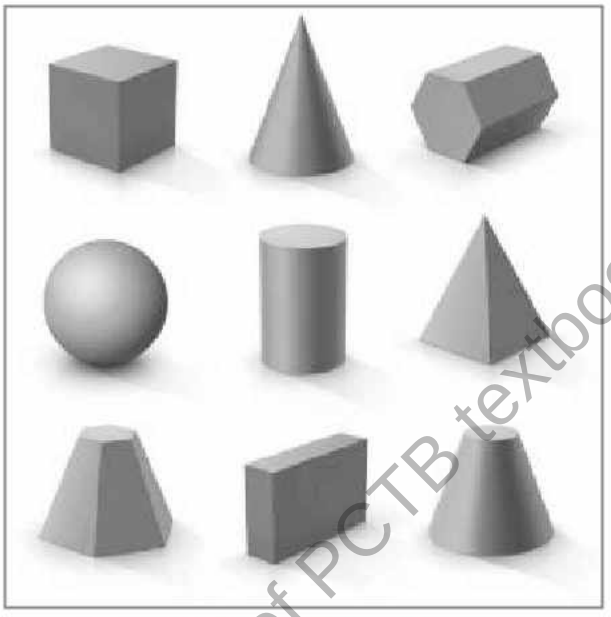

Figure 4.6 Three dimensional shapes

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### Sculpture Practice #1
### Making of Cubes

For this exercise the following material will be required:

1. Corrugated Sheet or Mount board
2. Paper cutter or seizers
3. Adhesive liquid or UHU tube
4. Pencil and scale

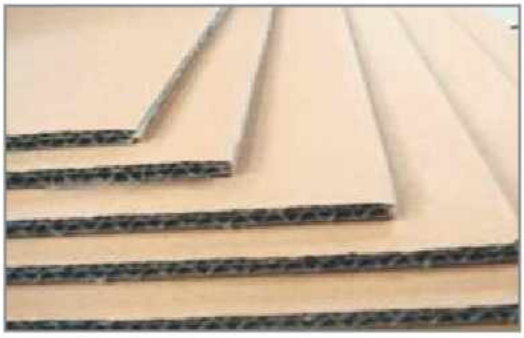


Figure 4.7 Corrugated Sheet

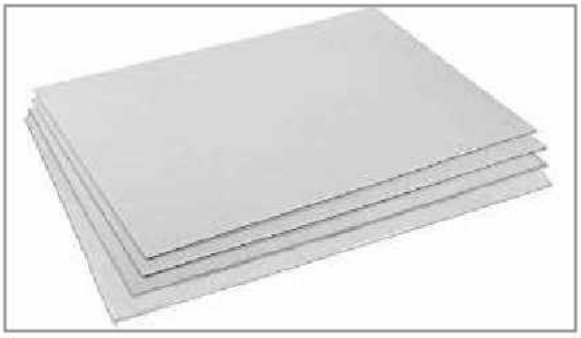
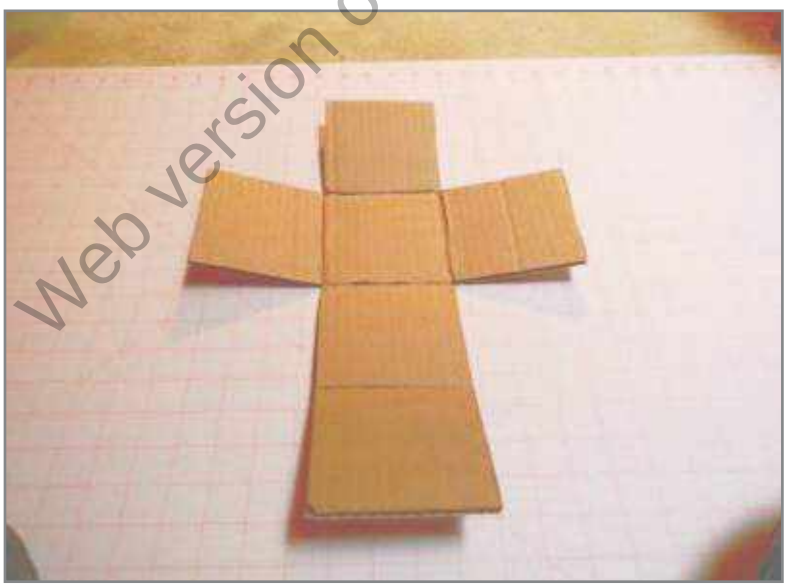


Figure 4.8 Mount Board

Making of Cubes

1. Draw six equal squares on a piece of corrugated sheet with pencil as given in the image.



Making of Cubes

2. Cut the negative area with the help of paper cutter or seizers and putting pressure on the pencil to remark the lines for easy folding of the sheet, observe the image.

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Making of Cubes

3. Make cubes by joining the edges with UHU glue or liquid adhesive. Try to make more than three cubes of different sizes.

Making of Cubes

4. Observing the examples arrange your cubes in a three dimensional composition of a paper sculpture. Students may apply colors to give the final touches to this kind of sculpture.

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5. Students can also explore the possibilities of making three dimensional compositions with more textures, different shapes and materials (like in clay, paper mache etc.)

Figure 4.9 Example of making sculpture with different shapes

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## Sculpture Practice #2

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

**Material:**

1. One bag of modeling or refined terracotta clay
2. Wooden clay roller
3. Roller pin with handle
4. A piece of scholar paper sheet
5. Paper cutter
6. Small pouch of sand
7. A tile with emboss pattern or any surface with a relief kind of impression or design
8. Piece of paper core tube or cheap price plastic sanitary pipe
9. A small pot with a thin mixture of clay and water
10. Small brush
11. A burin needle (a tool for making relief sculpture)
12. A working table

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Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

1. Take a big ball of clay and make it smooth to remove the air bubbles by pressing, smoothing and folding it.

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

2. Make a slab using the wooden clay roller

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

3. Cut the paper sheet according to the desired size and then cut the clay slab according to the paper with paper cutter or knife.

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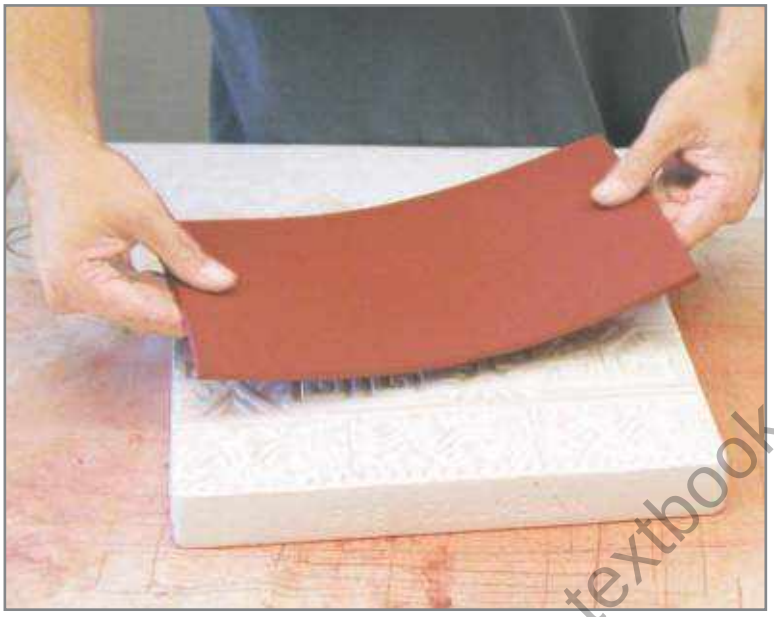
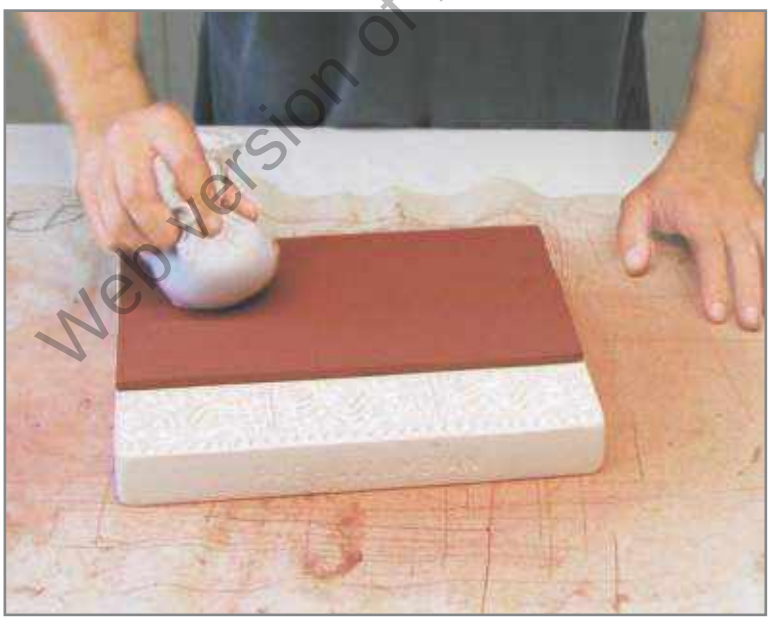


Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

4. Put that piece of clay slab on a textured surface



Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

5. Slightly dab the surface of clay slab with a pouch holding sand in it.

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Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

6. To get better results, then press the slab slightly with help of Pin roller.

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

7. Now carefully remove the clay slab from the textured surface. Observe the picture that how neatly the impression is made on the clay slab through this method.

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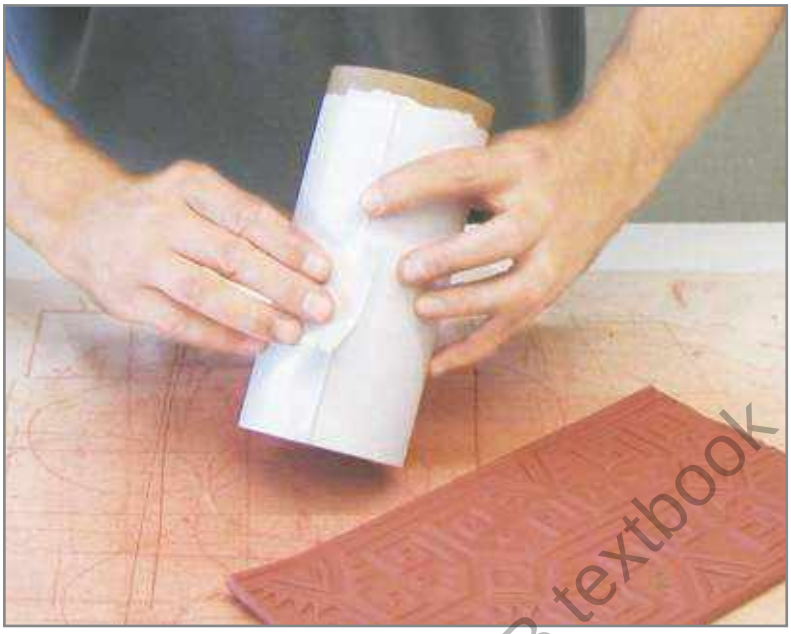

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

8. Take a piece of paper core tube or plastic sanitary pipe and cover it with the paper.

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

9. Roll the textured clay slab around the paper covered tube or pipe.

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Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

10. Turn to stand it carefully on the flat surface of the working table.

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

11. Make some rough carving line at inside the joining points of clay slab. It will help to join it

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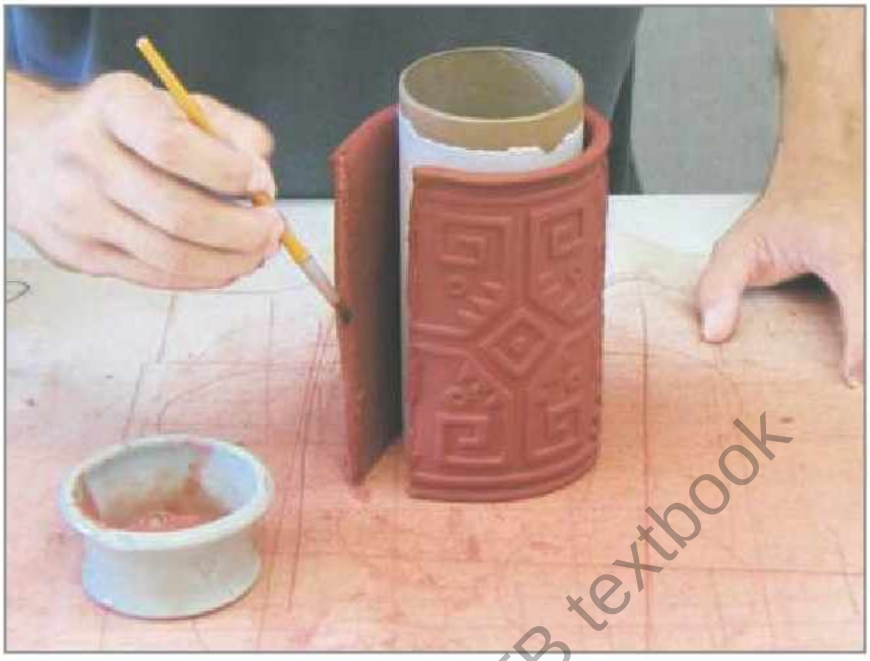

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

12. Apply the thin mixture of clay and water with the help of a soft brush on the rough edged of slab so that it could be fixed properly.

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

13. To fix the joint use a slight pressure of finger tips to ensure the strong fixing of joint carefully and do not demolish the design pattern. Then leave it for a few second.

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Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

14. When you make it sure that you have fixed the joint neatly and successfully then remove the inner paper core tube or plastic pipe.

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

15. You may leave it round cylinder form or give it a square shape until it is wet and flexible according to the given image.

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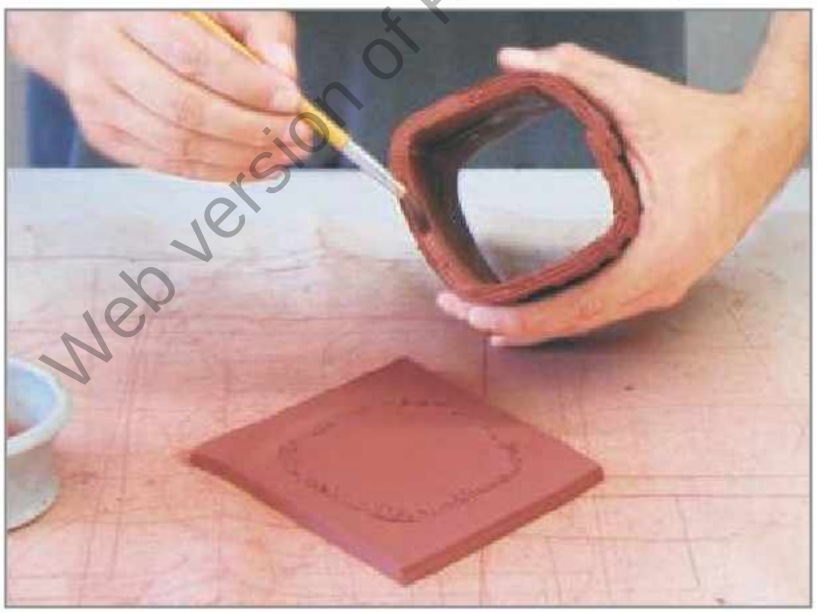
Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

16. Prepare another small slab to make the bottom base of the object and put your cylinder shape on it. Mark the base with the help of burin needle (observe the picture).



Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

17. Hold the cylinder form in your hand and apply thin mixture of clay and water with the help of brush to the bottom area and mark on the base slab so that it could be joined properly.

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Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

18. Then cut the extra base slab.

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

19. Make it more refine with help of burin needle and a wet sponge

Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

20. Make a small round coil of clay and cut it in equal two pieces, make handles for the pot and fix it with the help of thin mixture of clay and water.

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Making of three dimensional pencil jar (cylinder form) in clay

21. Let it dry completely and the pot may be sent for baking in the kiln so that it could become strong and durable.

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# Sculpture Practice # 3

## Making of a Relief Sculpture 1

Sand Cast Relief of footprints

This method is a direct method for creating a relief form of any impression taken on the surface of sand. Students may experiment this technique with different other objects or hand impressions.

### Material

1. An old sheet or plastic tablecloth (to protect your work surface).
2. A photo frame big enough to fit the number of prints you wish to use. (A small frame with just one print would look great too).
3. Sand
4. Plaster of Paris 1kg bag
5. Water for making the plaster
6. Cardboard to smooth the sand
7. Spray on sealer
8. Glue gun
9. Sea shells for decoration

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1. Take a photo frame of your choice and size which suits your required size and numbers of footprints. It should be one inch deeper or more than that. Make it empty and cut a cardboard according to the size of frame.

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2. Then cover the front of the frame with that piece of carboard which you have prepared according to its size and turn it over to its back. You will find deeper surface to work on.

3. Now pour the sand into it and level the surface with help of a piece of cardboard.

4. Take foot prints on the surface of sand and make it sure that you are stamping the impressions neatly and deeply.

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5. You may take one, two or more prints.

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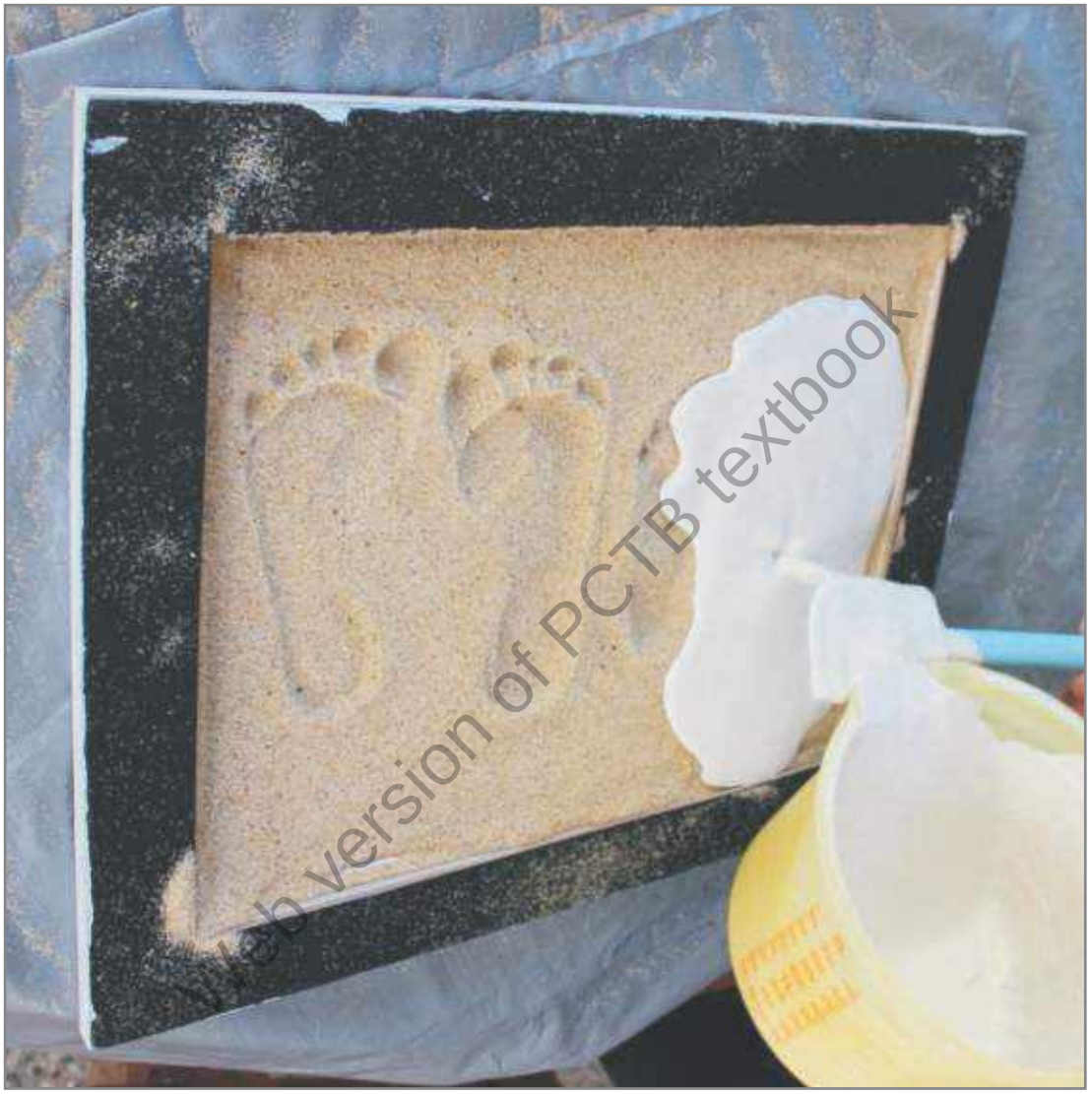
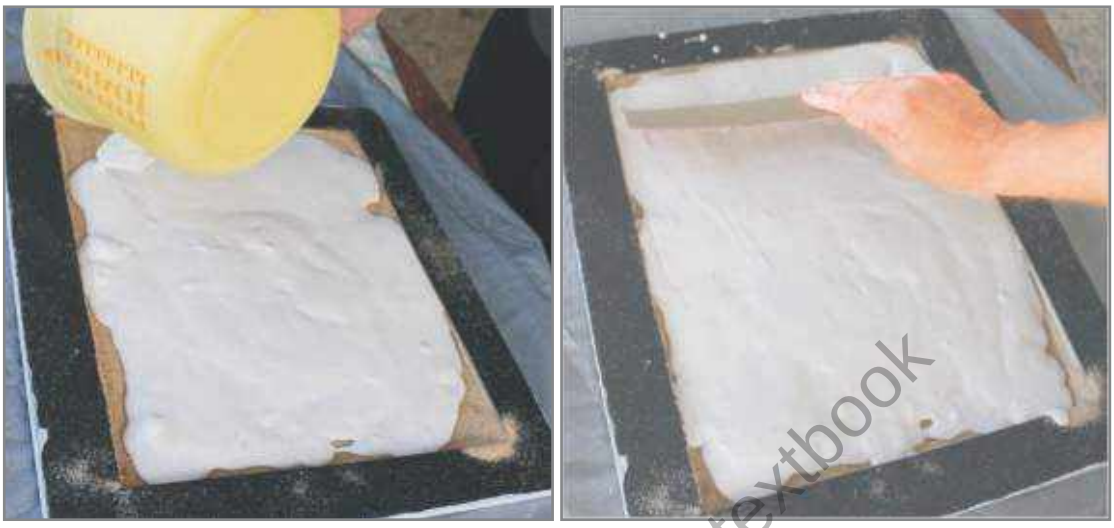
6. Now take a jar or any pot for mixing the plaster with water. Mix the plaster with almost double quantity of water in it.




7. Pour the prepared plaster on the taken prints carefully and slowly cover the prints and edges.



8. Cover the edges and level the surface of plaster with help of a piece of cardboard.

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9. Leave it at the place of work for almost an hour so that it could be strong enough to be turned over the front side.

10. Turn the frame to front side you will find the footprints in relief form in plaster within the frame. Let it completely dry in the sun and decorate it with sea shells.

11. This relief can be a hanging on the wall.

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# Sculpture Practice # 4
# Making of Round Sculpture of a Bird

Students may choose the bird of their own choice for this practice. Here is given an exercise of developing a parrot sculpture.

**Material:**

1. Terracotta clay one bag
2. Sculpture tools
3. Water and spray bottle

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1. Take two pieces of clay one is small for making base and one to form the body structure of bird (parrot).

2. Observe the shape of bird and its base.

3. Make some rough lines with the help of wire brush from your tools of sculpture and take another smaller piece of clay, shape it in round from and join it on the rough surface of the base, and also make rough marks with wire brush in this piece. This little piece will be used to form the feet of the bird.

4. Join the body structure of the bird on the base piece and observe the middle smaller piece.

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5. Observe step by step development of head. Mould the front part according to the shape of bird's beak, make upper and lower part of beak with small pieces of clay. Also formulate the forehead feathers with a flat piece of clay.

6.Observe the pictures for creating the head shape and adjust the clay softly with the help of your hands and fingers.

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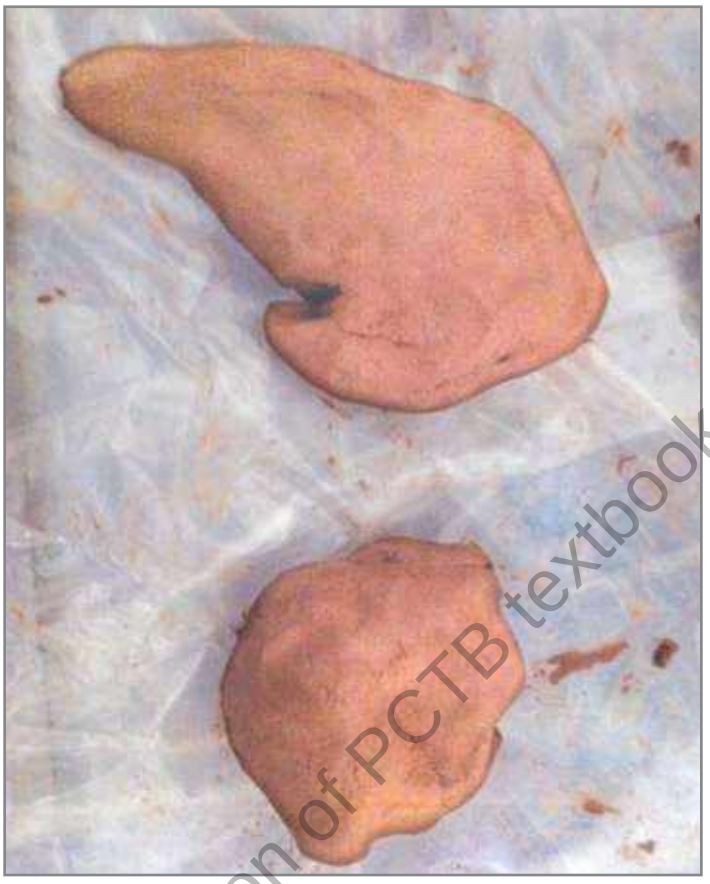
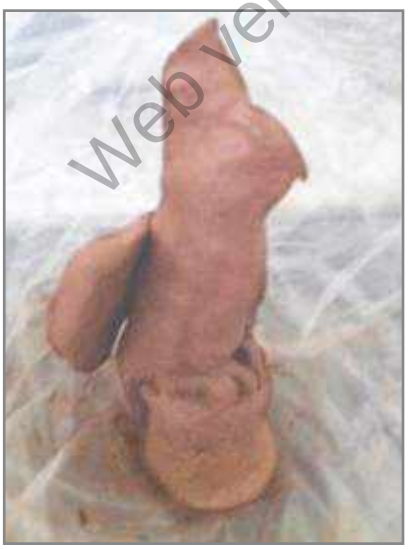
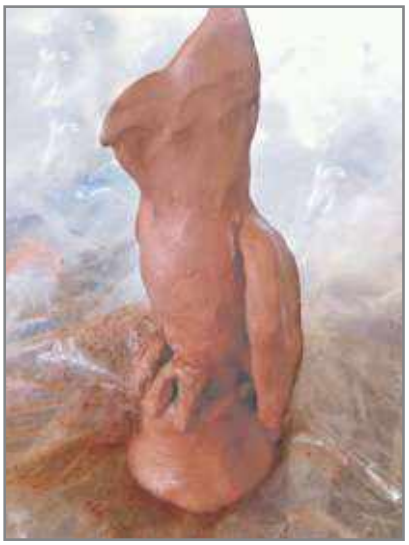
7. Now work on the feet with help of tools and carve out the bird's claws or feet. Workout from front, left and right sides.



8. Now create wings. Take two equal pieces of clay and form the wing shape.





9. Join the wings on the back of bird's body, on both right and left sides.

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10. Join the wings carefully with each other from birds back side.

11. Set the wings with the help of your palms and finger keeping in observation the shape of bird.

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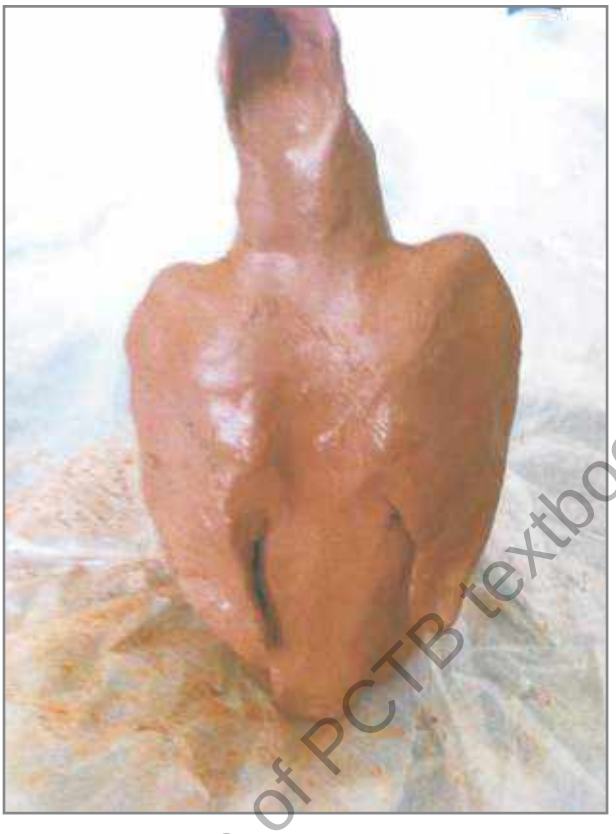

12. Join the wings carefully with each other from birds back side.

13. For details of small feathers make multiple small balls of clay and keep them moist with spray shower of water.

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14. Now make rough lines on the whole structure of bird you have built for adding details on it.

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15. Observe the steps to develop the small feathers on both wings and back of the bird.

16. Now turn your sculpture to its front and start working in same manners as you have done at its back.

17. Start covering from the lower side and formulate the feathers of legs.

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18. Working from the lower side cover the front of the bird according to the given pictures.

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19. Now work on the face of the bird and add smaller and delicate pieces to its face and forehead.

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20. Observe the pictures for details of feathers.

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21. After making feathers add equal small eye balls on both sides of head according to the picture.

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22. Add more details of the feathers making lines with the help of tools. This practice will add a realistic look and an adorable appearance to your bird sculpture.

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23. Finally refine the base and add some details onto it. Students may add their signature or name at its bottom.