



Studio Sunday on the Front Steps November 2017 Activity Beeswax Pillow Carving

Reimagine Valeska Soares' meticulously sculpted marble pillows on view in *Valeska Soares: Any Moment Now* by hand carving your own versions in beeswax.

For this project you will need:

- Beeswax
- Carving tools such as:
 - Plastic knife
 - Wood pencil
 - Ribbon sculpture clay cutter



Valeska Soares, *Duet I* (from *After*), 2008.

Let's begin!

1. Examine your beeswax and think about the shape of a pillow.
2. Use the carving tools to shape your beeswax.
3. Carving tools like a plastic knife help create texture around the edges.
4. Carve out an indentation in the center of your beeswax with the clay cutter to represent a head mark.
5. Use the wood pencil to create fine lines and details.
6. When you are satisfied with the shape of your pillow, use your finger to smooth out the beeswax.

Tips & Tricks

- Think about your own pillow that you sleep on at home. How is it shaped? What does it look like when you wake up in the morning? Are there wrinkles and indentations from your head? What are the textures like?
- If you don't have a ribbon clay cutter at home, you can use other carving tools to create your beeswax pillow. What other tools can you think of that can help you to create different lines and textures?
- Maybe there is more than one pillow on your bed at home. Think about how multiple beeswax carvings would look next to each other. Can you sculpt two or more beeswax pillows that look like they belong on the same bed?
- Hold the beeswax firmly when using the carving tools to avoid making a slip or unintended cut. If you do make a slip, it's ok! Can you incorporate the line into your design?

