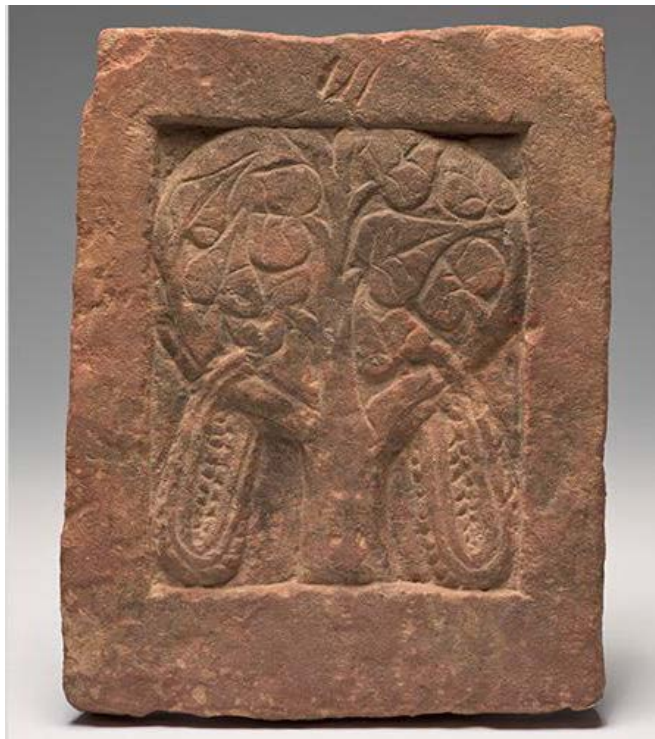




Studio Sunday on the Front Steps July 2016 Activity Gray Air-Dry Clay

Use Gray Air-Dry Clay to create your own interpretation of the carved sandstone Bodhi tree, on view in SBMA's exhibition *Puja and Piety: Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist Art from the Indian Subcontinent* through August 28.



Garlanded Bodhi Tree beneath which the Buddha was enlightened, Uttar Pradesh, India, Mathura, 1st century. Red mottled sandstone, SBMA, Anonymous Gift.

For this project you will need:

- Air-dry clay (can be found at any craft store)
- Carving implements (craft sticks, sandwich picks, toothpicks, popsicle sticks, etc.)
- Some water
- Paintbrush
- Tempera cakes (optional)

Let's begin!

1. Using a medium sized piece of clay, press and flatten the clay into a square or rectangle shape, about ½ inch thick.
2. With a craft stick, gently etch your design into the surface of the clay, using the Garlanded Bodhi Tree as inspiration.
3. Using your etching as a guide, carve out your image in the clay with a craft stick. You will be creating a relief image, which is a sculptural technique where the sculpted elements remain attached to a solid background of the same material.
4. With the extra clay, roll out a small, thin layer and, using a craft stick, cut out leaves for your Bodhi tree.
5. To attach the leaves to the tree, score the back of the leaf by making thin lines to create a small grid using a craft stick. Then, score the part of the tree where you would like to attach the leaf.
6. Using a paintbrush, put a little bit of water on the score marks on both the leaf and the tree. Place the leaf on the tree, matching up the score marks. The water and the score marks will act as glue to keep the leaf attached.
7. With a craft stick, blend the edges of the leaf to the tree to attach it more securely.
8. Continue adding leaves until you feel your Bodhi tree is complete.
9. If you would like, use a craft stick to draw more details on your tree, leaves, or in the background – be creative!
10. Allow clay to dry thoroughly, about one day, before painting.

Tips & Tricks

- If you make a mistake, don't worry! Clay is a very forgiving medium; just smooth out the area with your fingers and try again.
- If the clay becomes difficult to work with, add a small splash of water to make it flexible again. If you add too much water, let it dry out some before continuing to work with it.
- Use different sizes and shapes of carving implements to add a variety of texture and detail to your piece.