# Expressive Frames: Drawing & Bas-relief Two Ways

## Big question:

How clearly can I express particular moods through line, texture and arrangement, in drawing and in bas-relief (using clay)? Bas- relief is a technique of having forms cut into and jump off of the surface.

### **Activity:**



#### **Activity 1/ Drawing:**

- 1. imagining and creating gestures of expression In your sketchbook:
- a. In small groups create a list of 10 expressions of how you would feel in each of these environments: where you are right now I your school chair; a place you have been and you would rather be right now; a place you have never been and may never be able to realize.
  b. create an expressive gesture for each term.
  c.Draw 8 ways you could arrange or combine these textures into interesting compositions¹



#### Activity 2/ Bas Relief tiles in clay x 2:

Using clay you will create five textured squares. Each surface should have a different texture expressing a particular state of mind / mood /emotion.

- cut out a shape in card stock that will be the template for all of your frames (10cm x 10cm). When you have created a good texture composition, you will use this card template to trace and cut out the forms in the clay.
- b. Taking your five most interesting and diverse selection of gestures (from Activity 1c.) translate them into relief sculptures. This means that you will decide how some gestures will be dug in and others will come off the surface. Consider how your arrangement of these forms will affect the expressive qualities or message.
- Select and submit your strongest, most creative and divers collection of forms.

**WARNING:** take care to get the precise surface qualities you seek. Rough, smooth, jagged, hard edge, organic, etc.. whatever the texture, be deliberate an d do your best work.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> **Composition:** refers to how something is arranged in a set frame. How is the eye directed to observe the image or frame? How do the forms relate to each other? How are the principles of design used in the frame?

## Activity 3/ Printmaking (Lino cur bas-relief)

There are several forms of printmaking. All were developed to be efficient ways to record and distribute visual ideas. Newspapers, books, posters all required some form of printmaking, and block printing required the least amount of resources.

#### The Challenge

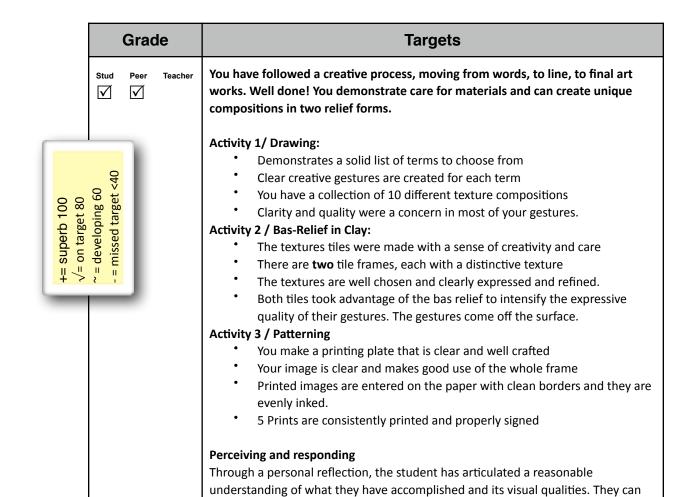
Take one of your combination patterns and use it as your image to carve from a block. Only the elements you leave behind will print (positive space), the stuff you carve away will not print (negative space). Remember to plan in reverse (text prints backwards)

- Step 1. Make your image 4"x6"
- **Step 2**. Trace and transfer your image to tracing paper. **Rub chalk on the front** of the tracing paper. turn it upside down on your place and using your pencil, retrace your image.
- **Step 3.** Carve away negative space. **Stay shallow.** Going deep runs the risk of weakening your plate and making your image look choppy.

Work with others to combine your patterns to make a dynamic and engaging sheet of wallpaper.

Step 4. Print. Aim to make a few proof prints and 3-5 good prints on nice paper.





point out strengths and weaknesses.