

Artistic approaches in production process

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Abstract

“Ceramic Art” is a branch of plastic arts which adapted itself to technological developments and proved its existence in an artistic and industrial manner. As our dear master Prof. Atilla Galatalı states in his essays titled “My Criticism”, ceramics originated from a humble pot necessity of primitive mankind. Humanity required functional and spiritual necessities and they created little ceramic amulets and “ritons”, which are pots used for holy ceremonies. Rich goddesses figurines indicates that ceramics are used throughout history.

In this historical evolution, ceramics primarily entered to modern arts as a material.” Giant masters such as Picasso, Chagall, Matisse, Miro; who do not have technical knowledge of clay, glaze and oven, used ceramics and helped in the contemporary shaping of ceramic art.” (Galatalı, 1985:70). The clay was thus used as a means of expression and the contemporary means of the ceramics began to be shaped.

Ceramics used to start from Neolithic times in almost every field, both artistic and industrial sense, have evolved into this stage by evolving with human intelligence. Therefore, it is not possible to deny the primitive styling methods of ceramic art, which is as old as the history of humankind. As an educator, I instruct the junior students to meet with ceramics by explaining and applying the methods of pinching, coil and slab which are the basic shaping methods.

This study was carried out within the scope of First Class (Beginner) Ceramics Basic Art Education course held by Anadolu University School for Handicapped Ceramics Department. The course includes both theory and practice. In this direction, the students were informed about the basic shaping methods of pinching, coil and slab methods. At the end of the semester, it is aimed to learn briefly the ceramics of Neolithic period and to learn the basic techniques of ceramic forming, how to behave during application, difficulty or convenience of methods and ceramics forming process.

Basic ceramic shaping methods

The art of ceramics originated from primitive mankind's pot needs and reached an incredible point throughout time thanks to technique and technology. But as always, this is the point where we cannot go without worrying about how these works are done. For this reason, basic shaping methods in ceramics are an important step.

The first method is “pinching method”. Pinching method is a technique which you can use without the need for any material other than ceramic clay. This makes the method distinctive. In shaping phase, first you take the ball of clay in one hand while the thumb and fingers of the other hand thin and shape the walls (Pictures 1,2). You can shape small and amusing forms with this method.



Picture 1 Shaping with pinching method
Halls Susan, Pinch Pottery Functional, Modern Handbuilding, New York, 2014, page11.



Picture 2 Shaping with pinching method
Ros Dolors, Seramik, Dekoratif Teknikler, İnkılap Kitapevi, İstanbul, 2002

Second shaping method is coiling method. It is a technique which is used for centuries to shape cylindrical and spherical forms. Basically you paste coil of plastic ceramic clay on top of each other. There are also various sizes of coiling machines. To make coils of equal thickness, coils are made on a clean and smooth surface under the fingers of both hands without applying too much pressure to the plastic clay. You don't need too long coils. Prepared coils are squeezed on each other by notching and applying wet clay (Pictures 3,4).



Picture 3 Shaping with coils
Birks Tony, The Complete Potter's Companion, London, 1997, page:70,72,73



Picture 4 Shaping with coils

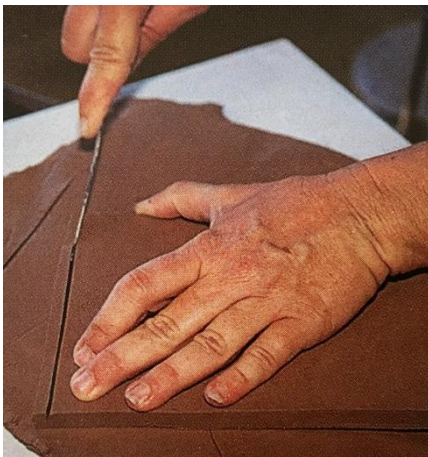
Peterson Susan, Peterson Jan, Seramik Yapıyoruz, Kara Kalem Kitap Evi , Konak-İzmir, 2009, Page:45.

Slab method is the third technique. This technique is mostly used for edged and angular forms. Ceramic clay is opened by a roller between two equal height bars. There are also slab opening machines. After you open it with a roller or machine, parts are cut according to the form to be applied from this clay. Notch is opened, wet clay is applied and bonding is completed at places where the cut pieces are to be bonded to each other (Pictures 5-9).



Picture 5 Shaping with slab method

<https://www.thespruce.com/making-clay-slabs-2746176>, 2017



Pictures 6 Shaping with slab method



Pictures 7 Shaping with slab method

Peterson Susan, Peterson Jan, Seramik Yapıyoruz, Kara Kalem Kitap Evi , Konak-İzmir, 2009, page: 47.



Pictures 8 Shaping with slab method **Pictures 9 Shaping with slab method**
Peterson Susan, Peterson Jan, Seramik Yapıyoruz, Kara Kalem Kitap Evi , Konak-İzmir, 2009, page:47.

Practices of shaping methods with students

Nowadays, ceramic art has adapted to the developing technology and these developments have taken their place in life in both artistic and industrial manners. In this sense, it is evident that this point is rooted in its historical and traditional past. The contribution of our rich Anatolian culture to these designs and developments is a natural and historical process. That's why we learn new concepts by understanding it without denying our past. In the case of ceramics, it is necessary to know the the basic ceramic shaping methods of pinching, rolling and slab which are technically explained at the entrance of the article.

In this study, it is aimed to teach the basic ceramic shaping methods of pinching, rolling and slab and to create original studies of students with these methods.

For this, a study was carried out within the scope of Ceramic Basic Art Education course with 1st grade students of Anadolu University School for Handicapped. The study was conducted during the course for a total of 48 hours during one semester. Within the scope of the course, powerpoint presentations and videos from youtube have been followed firstly, materials used for preparation of ceramic clay in plastic shaping have been introduced and applications with pinching method has been started. In the same way, applications were made with rolling and slab methods

For the pinching method, students first made ceramic balls (picture 1-3) large enough to fit inside the palm of their hand. Three or four of these balls were made to make pots of similar size.



Picture1



Picture 2



Picture 3

They started shaping their little pots (Picture 4). The students said that the method was easy, fun and not too difficult (Pictures 5-7).



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6



Picture 7

For the coiling method, the students prepared ceramic clay in the same way. They started working with coiling method to make a pencil case with a height of at least 13 cm. Although it seems to be more practical as a method, they realized that it is time consuming. In the coiling method, first you make coils (Picture 8). Notches are made to both surfaces of coils and the surface it will be pasted. After the slime prepared from the clay is applied to the surface, the process of pasting coils is completed. The inner surface of the case is smoothed. Outside is left in the form of coils. Pictures 9-13 shows the phases of implementation.



Picture 8



Picture 9



Picture 10



Picture 11



Picture 12



Picture 13.

The students finally made a lid box with the slab method. To this end, the students prepared the clay, two sticks, a roller and cloths necessary for the method. They were free on the form of the box and the decor on the surface. In pictures 14, 15, 16 and 17, photos are seen from the application steps.



Picture 14



Picture 15



Picture 16



Picture 17

At the end of the semester, a ceramic vase bigger than 45cm was given as a homework and they were asked to use one of the techniques they learned in their practice. They all used the coiling method, thinking that it is easier to work and more suitable for a vase. Some examples of studies during the shaping stage are shown in pictures 18, 19, 20, 21.



Picture 18



Picture 19



Picture 20



Picture 21

Finally, cookie jars, pencil boxes and lid boxes made using earthenware are fired at 900 ° C and glazed at 1000 ° C.

Because they shape vases with stoneware, biscuit firings were made at 900 ° C and glaze firings were made at 1200 ° C. Pictures 22 through 30 shows glazing process.



Picture 22



Picture 23



Picture 24



Picture 25



Picture 26



Picture 27



Picture 28



Picture 29



Picture 30

CONCLUSION

In our course on basic ceramic shaping methods, students finished their works as of May 30, 2017. They learned the basic shaping methods while studying their form, and also learned the difficulties of making ceramics at the same time. They learn that: if they do not knead their clay well, the air inside it will harm their work; when the forms are not dried completely, it will burst inside the kiln; if they don't notch and apply slime, the ceramic pieces will not paste each other; if the glaze too much, it will flow from the surface; and also there are clays and glazes that are fired in different temperatures. They decorated their forms with sigrafitto or stampa techniques.

While the vast majority of studies have resulted in a positive outcome, some didn't due to the mistakes mentioned above. You can see the chosen student works in pictures 31 through 42.



Picture 31



Picture 32



Picture 33



Picture 34



Picture 35



Picture 36



Picture 37



Picture 38



Picture 39



Picture 40



Picture 41



Picture 42

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