Assignment 5: Aegean and Geometric/Archaic Greek Black-Figure Pottery
Due Date: Tuesday · March 31, 2020

Part A: · Painting your own ceramic pot in the black-figure technique

Materials:
- Plastic cups
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Paper for sketching
- Incising tool (sewing needle, a roofing nail, a pointed knife, etc… whatever you have—just be careful)

· The composition for your ‘ceramic’ (in this case your plastic cup) is to reflect either the decoration seen on ancient Aegean or Geometric/Archaic Period Greek black-figure pottery.

· For inspiration, examine these ceramic examples-
  https://www.ancient.eu/article/489/a-visual-glossary-of-greek-pottery/ and the examples provided in the PDF document under ART 101 Assignments on the class website.

· Sketch your design on paper and then on the plastic cup with pencil if the plastic allows. Organize the design in a manner that best suits your decoration and the viewpoint of the observer. Where would you place this vessel? On a windowsill, on an altar, a table, or mantle?

Notice how Greek artists also established a ground line and/or registers on which to place their forms. But how do you get an even ground line on a three-dimensional, rounded canvas? Well, without the advantage of having a potter’s wheel as the ancient potters would have used, here’s an alternative to drawing a straight line on a curved surface such as your plastic cup: https://youtu.be/GLRFt7QQ-ow

· Once you have your design laid out, paint your pottery with the ‘glaze,’ which in this case is your black permanent marker.

· Incise any decoration onto the black areas of your design by using the nail to scratch away at the black paint.

· Finally, provide a reflection on your process and experience with this type of work in a one to two-page typewritten response with a photo of your sketch, and a photo of your final ‘painted pottery’ emailed to me. Consider the following questions:
What style of painting were you inspired by, Aegean, Geometric, Archaic? Why?
How did the tools work for you? What would have made this process simpler?
Define the predominant shapes in your work. Are they geometric or organic? Representational or abstract? Explain.
What did you learn about painting in this manner? What did you learn about your materials?
What is your perception of the painter(s) who created such works?

Below are examples on how this process works and an example of my own ‘pottery decoration.’ I strongly encourage you to view the following videos on Greek vase painting—they are quite informative.

· **LaunchPad: Ancient Greek Vase Production and the Black-Figure Technique**
  https://youtu.be/FpLPx_Akl7Y

· **Penthesilea bowl: Greek vase painting in practice | The red-figure technique**
  *(a technique that evolves from the black-figure technique in the Late Archaic and Early Classical period)*
  https://youtu.be/Be2MQTdbLdA

**My Own Black-figure Process**

1 Sketch on Paper
2 Painted ground line and pencil sketch of Athena’s head on cup
3 Black-figure silhouette of head before incising features
4 Penciled in register for painted organic forms
5 Black-figure painting with incision