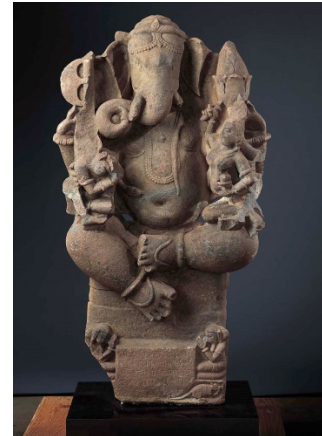


Norton Simon Museum

Family Art Project: Celestial Mounts

Hindu deities have celestial mounts or *vahanas*, animals used as modes for transportation. Ganesha, the elephant-headed god rides on a rat while Shiva, the god of destruction rides on a bull. Design an animal mount of your own.



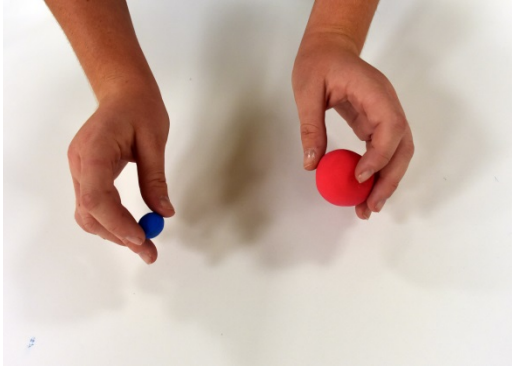
L-R: Cambodia: Pre-Angkor period, *Shiva's Bull (Vrishha)*, c. 800, sandstone, Norton Simon Art Foundation; Prakash Chand, *Shiva with Bull and Parvati*, c. 1960s, brass with silver inlay, Norton Simon Art Foundation, from the Estate of Jennifer Jones Simon, *Ganesha with Siddhi and Buddhi*, India: Madhya Pradesh, 1164, rust colored sandstone, The Norton Simon Foundation.

Materials:



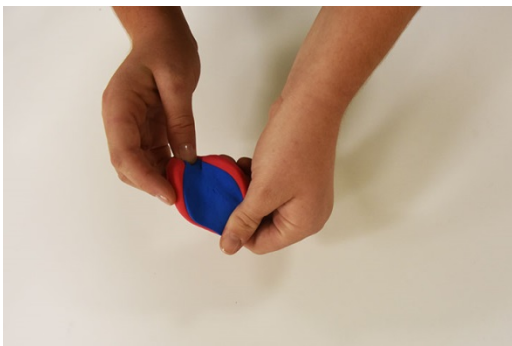
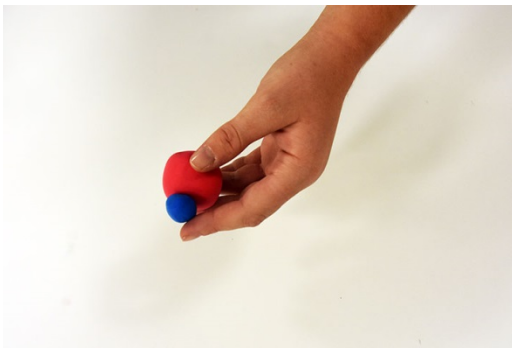
- Toy car
- Clay or Model Magic
- Clay tools (popsicle sticks, plastic forks, toothpicks, etc.)
- Feathers
- Gems and sequins
- Googly eyes
- Pipe cleaners
- Craft glue

Steps:



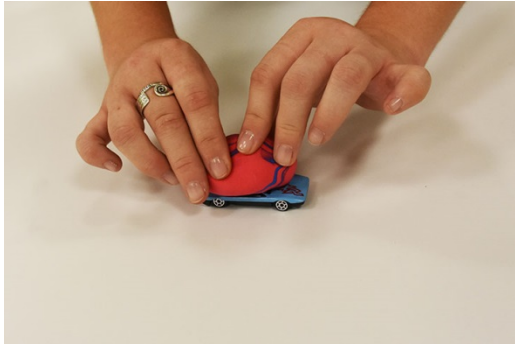
Roll a small piece of clay about the size of your palm into a ball.

To create a marbled effect with different colored clay, roll a smaller piece of different colored clay into a ball.

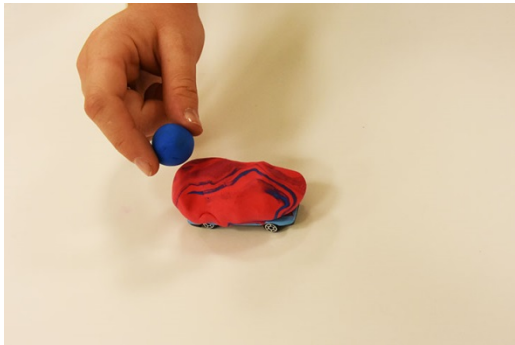


Then take the two pieces of clay and knead them together. Keep mashing them together until you are satisfied with how they look.



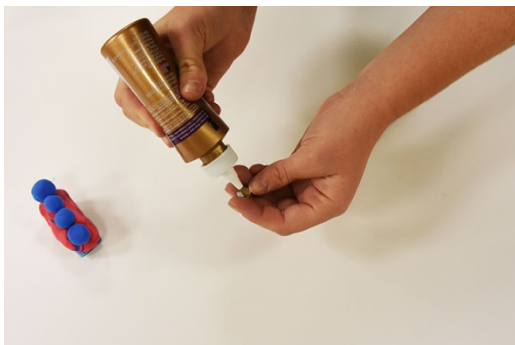


Press the clay onto the toy car, covering the car but avoiding the wheels.



Roll a smaller piece of clay into a ball. This will be your animal's head.

Press the smaller ball of clay onto the larger piece of clay that covers the car.



For extra hold, use a small dot of glue to attach the different animal parts and decorations.



Be creative! While the clay is still moist, use googly eyes, feathers, gems, sequins, clay tools, different colored clay and pipe cleaners to decorate your creature.



Admire your animal mount before she wheels away!