

Erin Latham | Session 3:

Bessie Harvey: Folk Art Figures

List of Required Supplies: Air dry clay, water, water cup, cardboard base, tool for scoring (plastic cutlery works great). Optional: Natural materials such as sticks, stones, toothpicks, yarn, etc. (If you can't get all these materials, the project will still work.); tablecloth, newspaper for keeping table clean.

Space/Facility Requirements: Running water, table space, chair

Student Time Required: Varies depending on students, around 45-60 minutes



Information on the Artist:

Bessie Harvey was an American artist best known for her sculptures constructed out of found objects, primarily pieces of wood. A deeply religious person, Harvey's faith and her own interest in nature were primary sources for her work.

Source: <https://www.soulsgrowndeeper.org/artist/bessie-harvey>

Step-by-step Instructions:

1. In this session, students will create a mini figure using clay and natural materials. Students can extend the lesson by collecting or providing their own materials.
2. Use a paper plate, cardboard, wood, etc., as a base.
3. Learn to work with the clay using coil methods, rolling clay, or pinching clay. Clay molding resources can be found online.
4. Create a basic pinch pot by rolling clay into a ball and then pinching away the middle. This will be the base of your clay figure.
5. Create a second ball of clay for the head. Add a face by pinching the ball into facial shapes or by using extra clay and then attaching by scoring (scratching into clay to stick it together)
6. Attach the head to the first pinch pot body on your base.



7. Add natural elements, beads, and yarns to your clay.
8. Let dry overnight.
9. Optional: Paint sculpture later.

