

*Education material
from Stone Leaf Pottery*

Peri Charlifu, Artist



Make a GRUMPY



Making faces is not difficult, what is more so, is making a face with an expression. There are several ways to do this. Most of the expression in a face come from the mouth and eyes. This Grumpkin will illustrate the basic shape of the face, the techniques to making expressions and some finishing techniques as well. Once you get the idea, you can adapt this technique to other faces and forms.



Step one: Start with a ball of clay, we're going to be making a pinch pot. It can be any size, this one is 3/4 pound.



Step two: Make a pinch pot, keeping it as spherical as possible. You can make two half spheres and attach them together if that's easier.



Step three: Using your finger or a tool, put grooves in the surface like a pumpkin, turn it so the opening is facing down. Set aside while you make the base



Step four: Make a thick disk that tapers like a plate dome. I painted the outside with orange slip. (See step 5 and 6)



Step five: Using green colored clay, force a small lump through a kitchen strainer to get a grass effect. Attach in sections until the area you want is covered.



Step six: Attach the "grass" to the base with a needle tool, gently pat into place. Note that this is going to be very fragile, especially when dry until it is glazed. Try no too touch it until its done glazing



Step 7: Paint the lower part of the pumpkin with orange (Or what ever color you want) slip or underglaze. Do not touch the wet slip if possible, this will insure a smooth surface.



Step 8: Score and using the orange slip attach to the base and gently press into the surface 3/4 of the way on the pumpkin to make placement for eyes as shown.





Step 9: Roll out a snake and taper it at both ends, this is going to be your upper lip and should be fairly thick, as its going to be smoothed in place (Step 10)



Step 10: Place the roll about half way down the face and dent in the lower lips on both sides of the middle as shown. Being careful not to smooth it into the face.



Step 11 Blend the upper part of the lip into the surface of the face making a gradual slope but leaving the bottom of the lip as is.



Step 12 Roll out a short, stout tube as shown. This is the lower lip.



Step 13 Place the lip as shown and blend the lower part of the lip into the chin, leaving the upper lip as is to form a mouth. You can take a needle tool and put lines in the lips to make them look more real.



Step 14 Make a fairly large tear drop of clay. This is the nose, a larger nose, like all exaggerated features add to the character of the face. Don't be afraid to try different sizes, until you find you you like.



Step 15 Place the nose and blend across the bridge of the nose and 3/4 down the sides of the nose don't blend the bottom of the nose yet.



Step 16 Using a cone tool or a pencil, pierce the nostrils and then using a needle tool, go up inside the holes and pierce the face to vent the air bubble you've made, to release gasses as it dries and fires.





Step 17 Blend down the center of the nose between the nostrils. Then make a thick tube, this is going to be cut into two so you can get two even sized pieces of clay. These will be for the brow.



Step 18 Cut the tube in two even pieces for the brow.



Step 19 Roll the pieces of the brow into a thin tapered cone. Place the brows on the face. Position them as shown to convey a grumpy expression.



Step 20 Smooth the bottom into place as shown to create eye sockets, leave the tops of them untouched. Then make two elongated footballs and gently pinch them into the shape shown. This is the lower lid. Use a single larger piece of clay divided in half to get them evenly sized.



Step 21 Place the lower lids and smooth them upward to create the eye socket. At this point I painted the rest of the pumpkin with my orange slip.



Step 22 To make the eyes and eyelids roll out four balls of clay the same size. Remember to size them to be proportionate to the rest of your face.



Step 23 Using two of the balls make little cups and place the eyeballs in them as shown.



Step 24 Place the eyes in the sockets. Note the placement of the pupils, by position the pupils differently will yield different expressions. Putting the pupil looking down will make your piece look haughty, crossing them will make him look crazy.

Step 25 Touch up your piece, add a stem and leaves and your Grumpkin is done!

