



# Walter Anderson Clay Art

**An art project for all grade levels  
Approximately 45 minutes in duration**

## MSCCRS STANDARD(S) ADDRESSED:

### **Social Studies:**

- **Fourth Grade, Mississippi Studies and Regions:** 4.MS.9 (Explain how literature, the arts, architecture, and music distinguish Mississippi from other places.)
- **Eighth Grade, Mississippi Studies:** MS.11 (Examine the impact of Mississippi artists, musicians, and writers on the state, nation, and world.)
- History, civics, economics, civil rights, and geography standards, all grades

### **English Language Arts:**

- Speaking and Listening standards, all grades

**Arts Learning Standards for Visual Arts, all grades**

**Arts Learning Standards for Media Arts, all grades**

## STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

I can create my own clay art piece in the same style as Walter Anderson's pottery.

## MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Air dry clay
- Clay shaping tools, if desired (pencils, rulers, and other classroom supplies can suffice)
- Wax or parchment paper as a work surface

## PROCEDURE:

### **1. Lesson Introduction (approximately 5 minutes):**

Brief explanation of museums generally and The MAX specifically

Give an overview of Walter Anderson, his connection to Mississippi, and his various art mediums (sketching, painting, block printing, sculpting, etc.)

Explain that he got a lot of his inspiration from nature – the colors, patterns, animals, plants, etc. that he saw.



## **2. Guided Lesson (approximately 5 minutes):**

Place a handout (provided below) with the Seven Motifs on each table, give to each student, or display it so it can be seen throughout the lesson. Discuss the shapes.

Show students examples of Anderson's pottery. Examples can be printed for personal use for this lesson, or displayed on a screen.

Some examples can be found at:

[wamacats.myportfolio.com/ceramics](http://wamacats.myportfolio.com/ceramics) (Walter Anderson Museum of Art), <https://www.facebook.com/wamamuseum> (Walter Anderson Museum of Art's Facebook page),

<http://shearwaterpottery.com/default.html> (Shearwater Pottery), <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063922934552> (Shearwater Pottery's Facebook page)

Instruct the students to choose their own animal to sculpt and form the air dry clay into the desired shape. Encourage the incorporation of the Seven Motifs in their designs.

## **3. Independent Practice (approximately 30 minutes):**

The students will then be given time to design and form their own clay art piece.

Instructor, teachers, aides, chaperones, etc. should be available to help as needed.

## **4. Closing the Lesson (approximately 5 min):**

Have the students show their work and explain how and why they made what they did. They should identify which of the Seven Motifs they incorporated in their artwork.

### ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS FOR LEARNING:

Information about The MAX: [msarts.org](http://msarts.org)

About Walter Anderson: [walterandersonmuseum.org](http://walterandersonmuseum.org) | [mississippencyclopedia.org/entries/walter-inglis-anderson/](http://mississippencyclopedia.org/entries/walter-inglis-anderson/)

Other lesson plans available through the Walter Anderson Museum of Art: <https://www.walterandersonmuseum.org/lesson-plan-library>

# The Seven Motifs

• motif = a distinctive feature in artistic works

① ② ③ → The spiral

• ○ ○ ○ → The simple circle

⤿ ) ( → The half circle

⤿ → Two half circles, connected

⤿ → The wavy line

⤿ → The zigzag

— — / \ → The straight line