

present

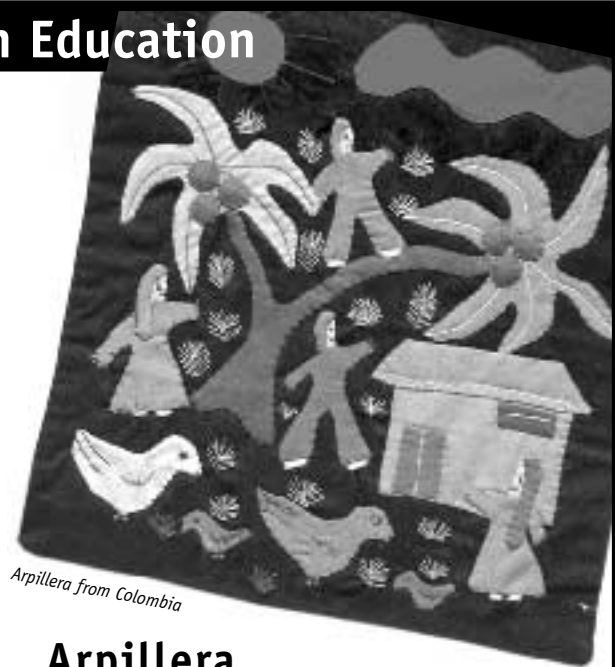
A World of Art

PROJECTS FOR KIDS

SOUTH AMERICA A rich tradition of South American ceramics traces back to ancient civilizations. For years, artists have used clay dug from riverbanks to create ceramic pieces: ceremonial urns, figurines, water jugs, everyday bowls & small toys. Enriched by folk art traditions, Latin American culture integrates ceramics into all aspects of life.



Retablo from Ayacucho, Peru



Arpillera from Colombia

Peruvian Retablo

In the 14th century the Spanish brought retablos to South America. These wooden boxes held religious images & were used as traveling altars. Later, the retablo became part of Peruvian culture & appeared at both religious events & celebrations. Today, retablos are an important folk tradition, displaying scenes from everyday life.

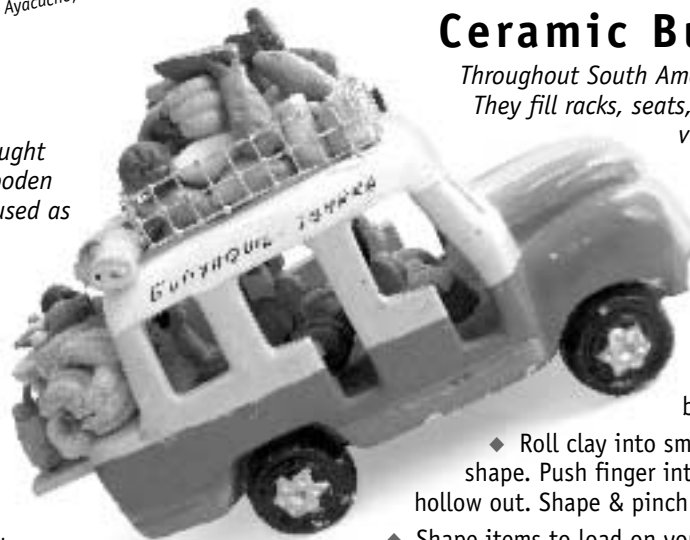
- ◆ Imagine a tiny scene inside a small box.
- ◆ Make bread dough: Mix bits of white bread with a little white glue. Knead until smooth. Floured fingertips avoid stickiness.
- ◆ Form tiny figures, vehicles or animals. Let dry until hard. Paint carefully.
- ◆ Paint background scene in small box. Glue in figures.
- ◆ Decorate both sides of box lid. When dry, slit opening in lid for doors. Glue lid onto box.

Search for pictures of retablos & arpilleras at: www.lucuma.com

Ocarina – Latin American artisans sculpt clay animals into musical instruments. The ocarina is a small clay wind instrument with finger holes & a mouth hole that makes pure musical tones. Sculpt your own ceramic animals & birds out of clay & paint them with bright colors.



Bird ocarinas from Peru



Ceramic bus from Ecuador

Ceramic Bus

Throughout South America, people travel in overflowing buses. They fill racks, seats, aisles & bus top with bundles of fresh vegetables & flowers, chickens, school bags, & their belongings. Artisans create small clay buses to celebrate their lively buses.

- ◆ Use clay, baker's dough or modeling clay to make a packed bus.
- ◆ Roll clay into small pear shape. Push finger into bottom to hollow out. Shape & pinch out a small bus.
- ◆ Shape items to load on your bus. Make room for the people inside. Paint with bright colors.



Ceramic bus from Colombia

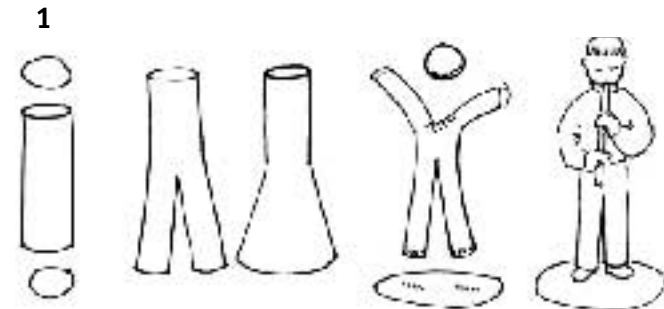
Ceramic Musician

Music has always enlivened South American life. Ancient Incan ceramic vases & figures show musicians tapping drums & tambourines. Today, artisans create lively clay musicians playing traditional instruments such as ocarinas, panpipes & reed flutes.

- ◆ Roll clay into a cylinder for body & 2 balls for head & base (step 1).
- ◆ Divide cylinder bottom into 2 legs or push into center to pinch a skirt (step 2).
- ◆ Divide top into 2 arms. Bend out (step 3).
- ◆ Score joining sides & attach head ball to shoulders. Press flat base from ball & attach figure (step 3)
- ◆ Mime playing various instruments. Pose your figure to match one. Add the instrument. (step 4)
- ◆ Join the musicians together in a band.



Clay musician from Peru



Arpillera

In Chile, Peru & Colombia, women work together sewing scenes of everyday life from bits of colored fabric onto flour sackcloth or "arpillera." They cut & neatly sew large pieces of fabric onto a base cloth. Then they stitch on 3-d figures & embroider details to make picture-stories of daily events & celebrations.

- ◆ Imagine a scene that tells a story about your life.
- ◆ Cut out & glue down large, simple background shapes.
- ◆ Cut buildings, trees, roads & houses next. Finally, add details: people, animals, flowers, & cars.
- ◆ Share your story & arpillera with a friend.



Ceramic bus from Ecuador

Activities & content created by



COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND ARTS
FINN CENTER

230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View, CA 94040
650.917.6800 | www.arts4all.org

Many thanks to:

Folk Art International,
Lucuma Designs,
Tracy Fearnside, Joe Margevicius,
Marj Pitchon & Jacqueline Raine

Supported by:



Look in the Mercury News

- ◆ Search the newspaper for pictures of clay in everyday use: mugs, jewelry, tiles, etc.
- ◆ Buses provide public transportation throughout South America. Search for articles about American transportation.



ARTS FOR ALL!