

Art at home!

Coil Pots

"In my life I see no difference between making pots, cooking and growing vegetables... there is need for me to work in clay... it gives me answers for my life."

~Toshiko Takaezu

Working with one's hands can help with both self-reflection and relaxation. Toshiko Takaezu, an American ceramicist and painter, viewed working with clay as an important and necessary part of her life.

She is known for her closed ceramic forms, which make her works "non-functional" for everyday use. Much of her artwork resembles human torsos and hearts, or circular shapes that she called "moons."

Takaezu had a range of ceramic techniques, one of which is called coiling. Coiling is a method where clay is rolled out in thin rods and stacked on top of one another to build a ceramic form. This activity provides steps to make a bowl with the coiling method, and is inspired by Takaezu's work that will be featured in our upcoming exhibition, "Look to Nature."



Materials:

- Table.
- Oven.
- Cup of water.
- Clay or Playdough.*
- Optional: a sponge
- Optional: butter knife or toothpick.

*Link for ASU Art Museum's easy homemade playdough instructions:
https://asuartmuseum.asu.edu/sites/default/files/playdough_instructions.pdf

Safety: Kids might need help using the oven. Be careful with the butter knife and toothpick.

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How to:



1. Gather materials and/or make the playdough.
2. Flatten a piece of playdough into a circle between your palms or on the table. This will act as the base for the pot.
3. Make a coil by taking a portion of playdough and rolling it between your hands and on the table. Make three to four long pieces that are about ½ inch thick.
4. Wet the edge of the circle base with water and a finger. This will help the playdough pieces stick to one another.
5. Attach a coil to the edge of the circle piece by pushing down and pinching it. Overlap the other coil pieces in the same manner. Roll more playdough into coils as needed.
6. Once all the coils are attached, you can smooth the coils with your hands.
7. Make designs and marks on your pot with a butter knife, toothpick or any other tools you have.
8. Following the ASU Art Museum's homemade playdough recipe, you can bake your coil pot at 200°F until it hardens. Thin pieces can take 45 minutes but thicker pieces may take two or three hours. Make sure you check your pieces every 30 minutes while they bake!

That's it! Have fun making coil pots, and check out Toshiko Takaazu's work for inspiration. Please share your creations with us on our social media pages [@asuartmuseum!](#)

Additional Links:

- Coil Pot Alternative Steps: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLK4QswiF9c>
- Toshiko Takaazu info:
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toshiko_Takaazu
 - <https://artmuseum.princeton.edu/object-package/toshiko-takaazu/29673>
 - <http://www.artnet.com/artists/toshiko-takaazu/>