

# Masks



## from around the world



# Why do people create masks?



# History of Masks

- Designs based on **culture, religious beliefs** and the **purpose of mask**
- Some primitive or tribal cultures use masks to **frighten away evil spirits** or sickness or to **prevent events** such as floods, famine and drought
- Many cultures use masks for **funerals, spiritual ceremonies, theatre, dance** or just for fun



## MASQUES D'AFRIQUE / AFRICAN MASKS

- Use materials from the Earth such as wood, clay, and textiles
- Often decorated with shells, colored beads, bone, animal skins and vegetable fibers
- Sometimes metals such as bronze, copper and brass are also used



Masks celebrate qualities like nobility, beauty, courage, mischief and humor.



# Alaskan Masks





# Alaskan Masks

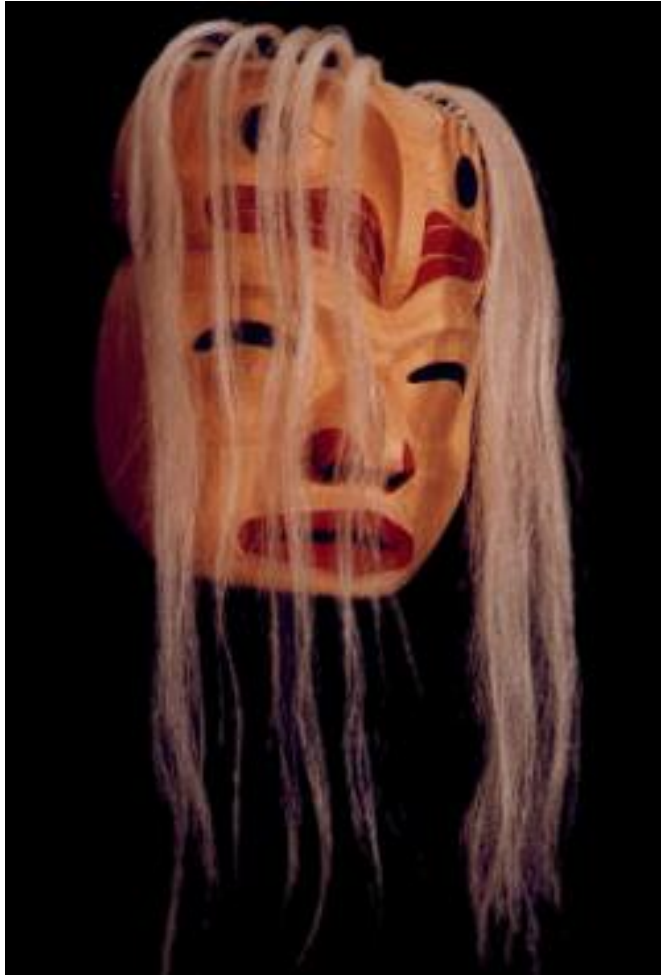


Grouse (bird) Mask, Alfred Scow



Sun Mask, Gene Brabant

# Alaskan Masks



Eagle Human, Henry Recce, Alder, Horse hair,  
paint



Northwest dancer

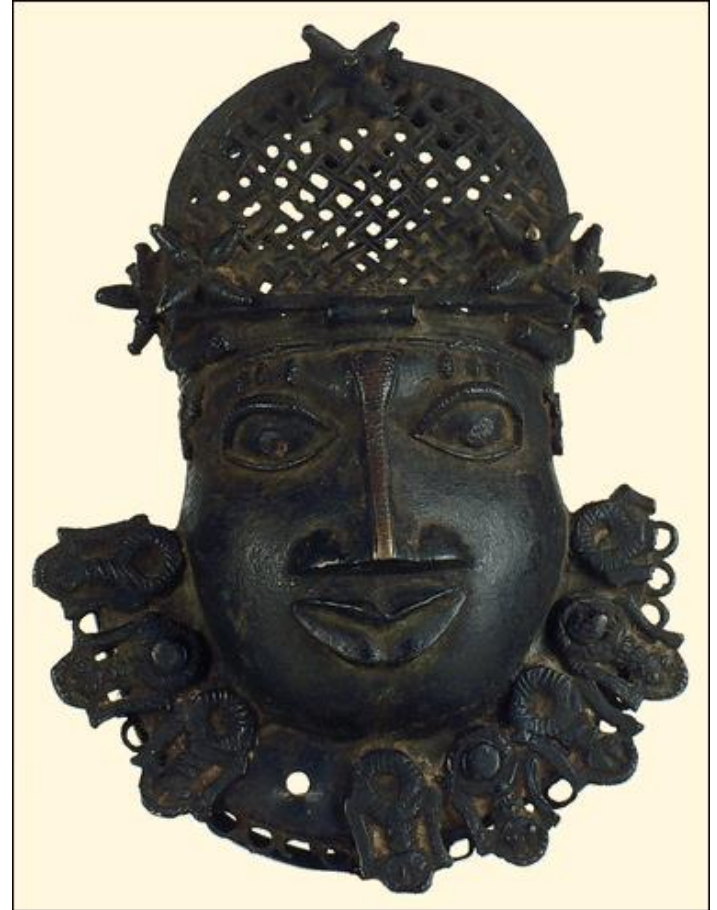




# African Masks



Chokwe mask, Wood



Benin Kingdom people, Nigeria,  
brass

# African Masks



Funerary Mask, wood, Western Sudan



Youthful Spirit Mask, Baule peoples. Wood, pigment



# African Masks



Water Buffalo





# African Masks



African Cow



# African Masks



African Hunting Dog



# Iroquois False Face Masks



Smallpox spirit whistler mask,  
wood, 19<sup>th</sup> century





# Sri Lanka Masks



Amuku Sanni Yakka, Stomach disorders



Kolam Natina Mask of a Nanda Gara

# Sri Lanka Masks



Kolm Natina Mask of Yamma Raksaya, (left)

Garra Yakka Mask, Sri Lanka, photo Mary Wickline (top)



# Sri Lanka Masks

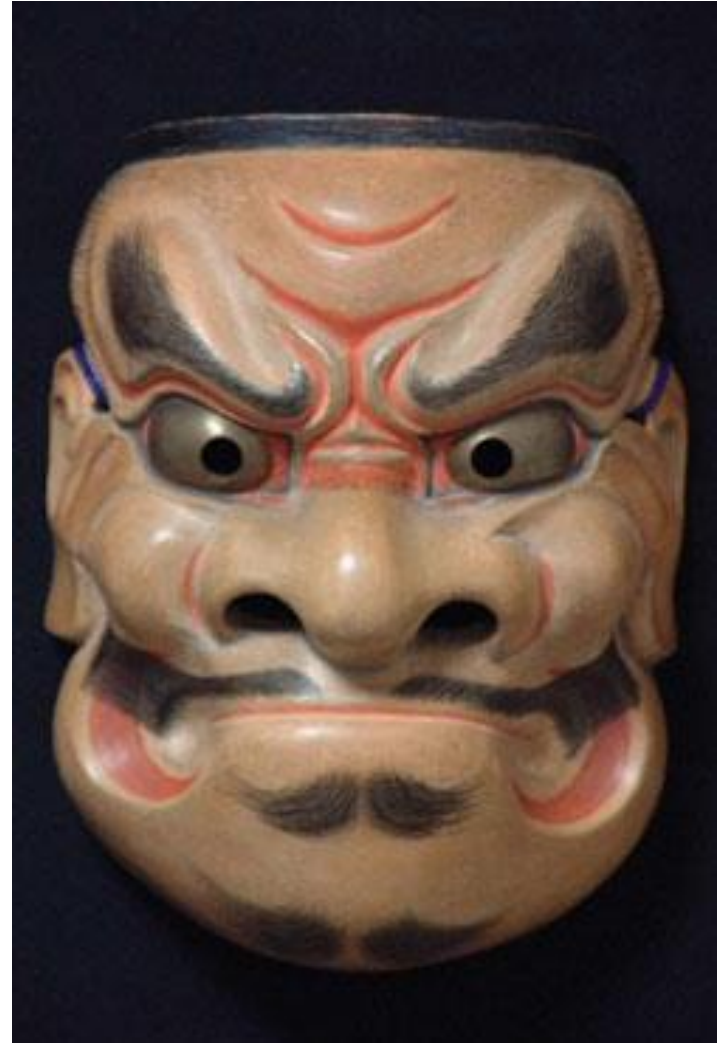


Kalam Natina

Mask of a  
Monkey



# Japanese Masks



Japanese Noh masks, by Toshizane

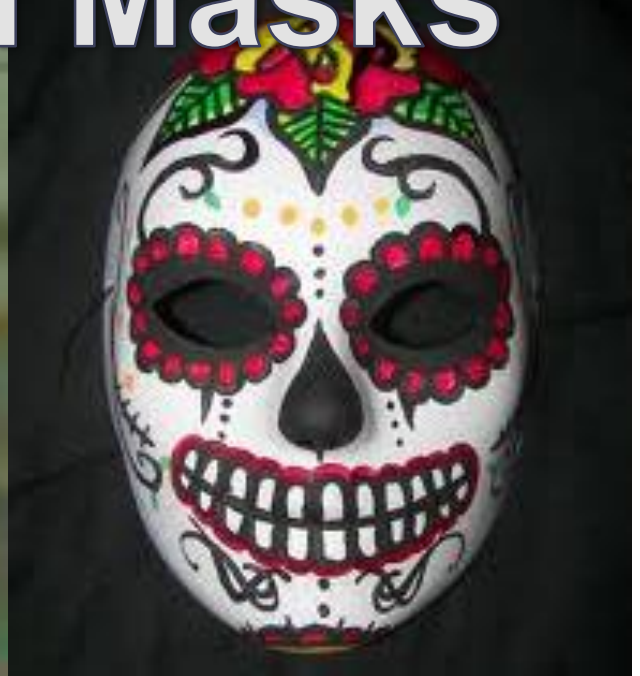
# Carnival Masks of Puerto Rico



Paper-mache masks



# Day of the Dead Masks



# Objectives / Requirements

- Create a mask using a **soft slab** and **hump mold (which will be made of newspaper)**
- Use **additive** and **subtractive** methods (**applique, carving, incising, impressing**)
- Must have LOTS of detail and cannot be flat
- Creativity will be a large part of your grade
- Think about: What will your mask be used for?  
Who will wear your mask?
- Think about: **Shape, pattern, line, texture, symmetry**, emotion



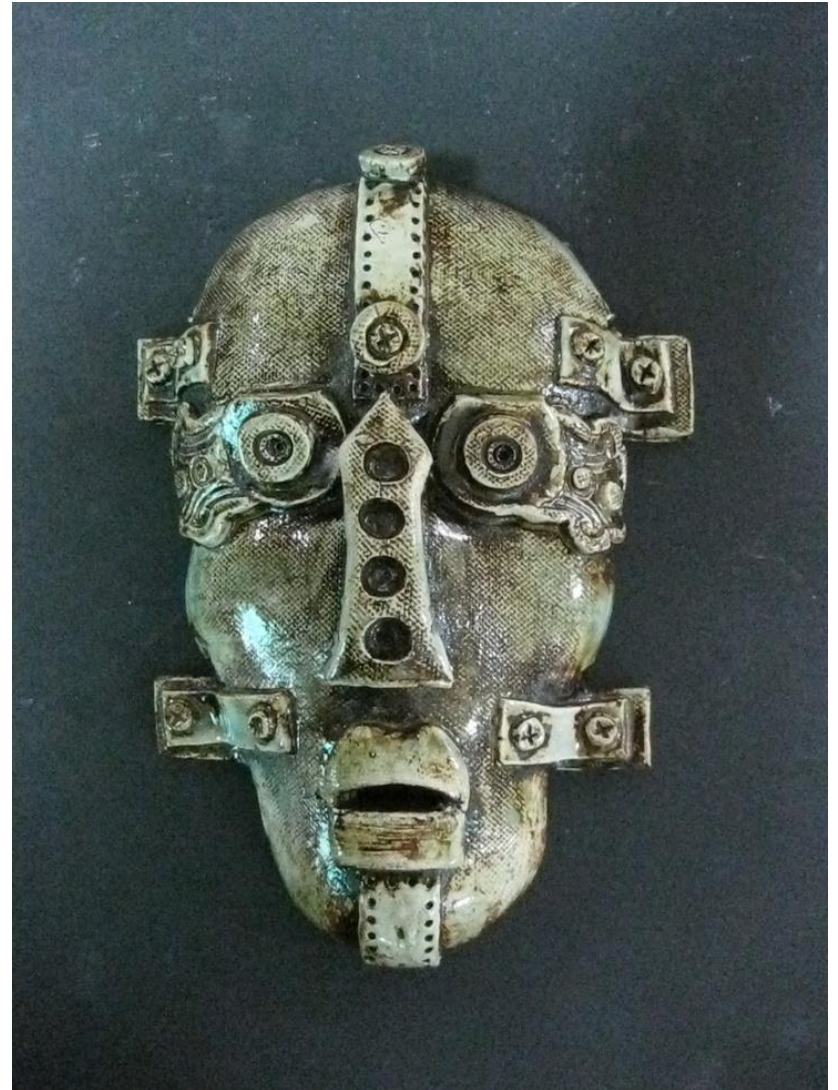
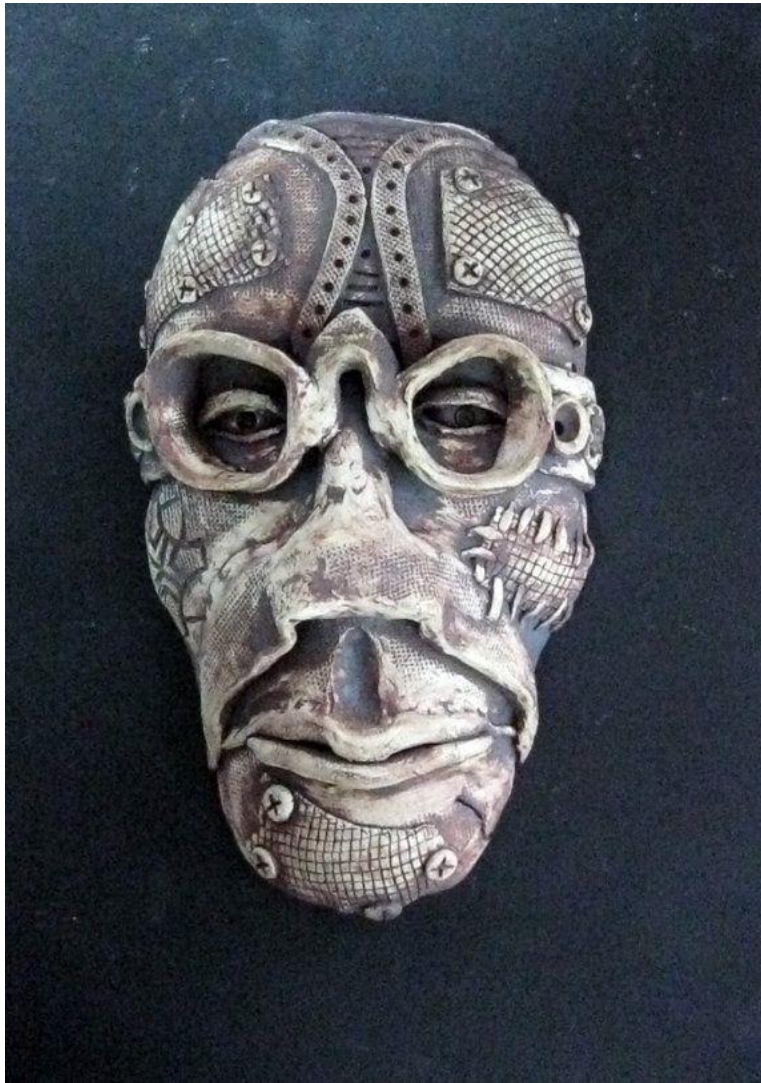




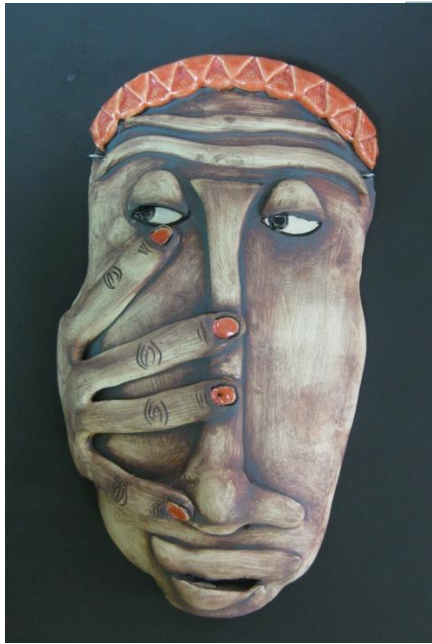














# Steps

- Create a detailed sketch (must include all aspects of your mask)
  - Details
  - Color
  - Labeled (decorative methods)
  - Include how will it be displayed
- It can be a historical mask but cannot be a copyright image (e.g. Darth Vader, movie or t.v. character, super hero, etc.)
- Must be life size or slightly larger



# Steps continues...

- Must use additive and subtractive techniques (carve, incise, impress, applique) to create design and texture
  - Include these methods in your sketch
- Make a newspaper mold and cover with a plastic bag
- You will be graded heavily on:
  - Level of difficulty
  - Details
  - Effort
  - Craftsmanship
  - Creativity

## Sources from:

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- What Masks Reveal** [http://edsitement.neh.gov/view\\_lesson\\_plan.asp?ID=310](http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?ID=310)
- Faces of The Spirits [http://cti.itc.virginia.edu/%7Ebc/African\\_Mask\\_Faces.html](http://cti.itc.virginia.edu/%7Ebc/African_Mask_Faces.html)
- Transformations: Masking Traditions of the Americas <http://www.recursos.org/masks/slide12.html>
- Another Face – Masks around the World <http://gallery.sjsu.edu/masks/Homefram.html>
- Tibet – Indigo Arts Gallery [http://www.indigoarts.com/gallery\\_tibetmask1.html](http://www.indigoarts.com/gallery_tibetmask1.html)
- Chichester, Inc – Iroquois False Face Masks <http://www.chichesterinc.com/FalseFaceMasks.htm>
- The Field Museum – Javanese Mask Collection [http://www.fmnh.org/exhibits/exhibit\\_sites/javamask/Icons1.htm](http://www.fmnh.org/exhibits/exhibit_sites/javamask/Icons1.htm)
- Masks, article by George Ulrich 1996 <http://www.mpm.edu/collect/mask.html>
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- ArtsEdNet Celebration put your best face forward <http://www.getty.edu/artsednet/resources/Sampler/d-4.html>