

# Craft Kit #38: Clay Menagerie



Anita Fields & Molly Murphy Adams  
**The Space Between**

October 1 - November 21, 2021

108 CONTEMPORARY

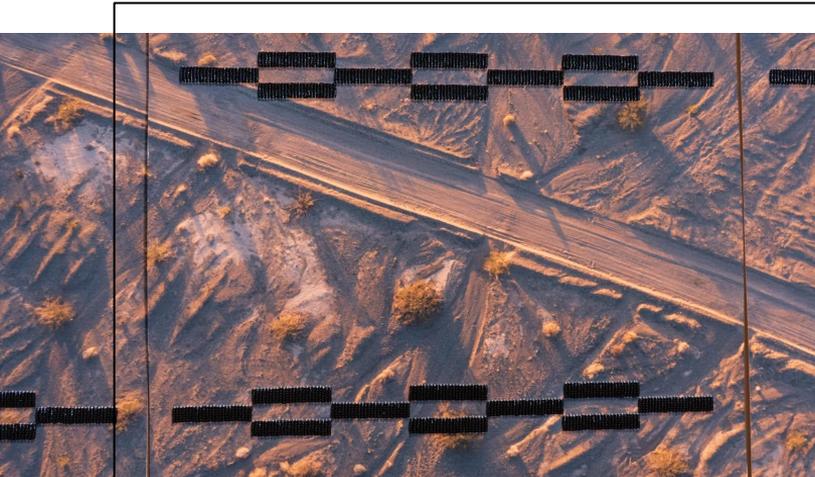
*Art. Craft. Design.*

# Welcome to 108|Contemporary!

We are a non-profit gallery in Tulsa, Oklahoma that specializes in contemporary craft. From October 1 through November 21, 2021 we have an exhibition called *The Space Between*, by artists Anita Fields and Molly Murphy Adams. Let's look at the exhibition before we make a clay animal inspired by the pieces we see there.

On the way we'll ask ourselves some questions. There are no wrong answers! When you view fine art and craft, your experience will be unique and personal. Perhaps the person next to you will have different answers to the same questions. By hearing each other's perspectives, we may find new and exciting ways to interpret each work.





## The Space Between

Anita Fields and Molly Murphy Adams are both Oklahoma-based, Native artists who have joined forces to present *The Space Between*. They use various techniques and materials to explore culture, pattern, color and rich craft traditions. Murphy Adams uses inventive beading and embroidery techniques that bridge the gap between fiber work and mixed media art. Fields is recognized for her ceramic sculptures but also uses fiber techniques in her Native regalia-inspired artwork. Both artists use techniques that they learned from their Native elders.

- Why would an artist use more than one technique? How might clay sculpture send a different message than collage, for example?
- What craft or artistic skills have you learned from an elder?

# Who is Molly Murphy Adams?

Murphy Adams, who is of Oglala Lakota descent, pairs the needlework techniques of beadwork and embroidery with printmaking and paper media. Murphy Adams' work illustrates the blending of cultures, identities, and histories by contrasting methods, media, and narratives.

Murphy Adams uses traditional beading techniques—learned while growing up on the Salish Kootenai Reservation in Montana—in nontraditional ways “to articulate new observations on politics, history, and identity.”

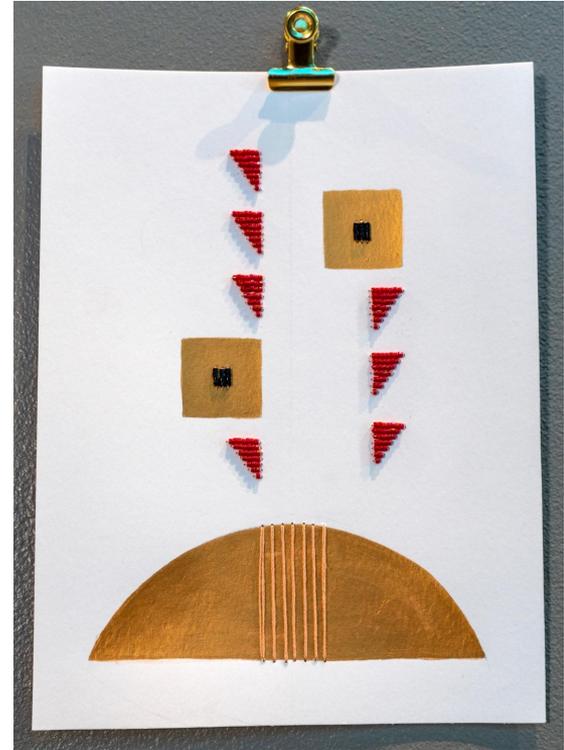
- What is “beadwork?”
- Different indigenous groups use beadwork in different ways. What are some of the Lakota beadwork traditions that you see in the next few images?





*Water Cycle, Lush (detail)*

*Power of Red*



*Grid in Gold, (detail)*

## Who is Anita Fields?

Fields is an Osage artist recognized for her ceramic sculptures and fiber techniques in her Native regalia-inspired artwork. The basic tenets of her Osage culture influence and inform her ideas, saying “I use our beliefs and worldview as metaphors in my work while documenting the evolution of our culture through the creation of ceramic figures, landscapes, and fiber-based forms.”

In her clay and textile works, Fields creates narratives that ask viewers to consider other ways of seeing and being in an effort to understand our shared existence in the world. Her work also speaks to environmental issues by referencing the Osage notions of duality, such as earth and sky.



Purse with Sun



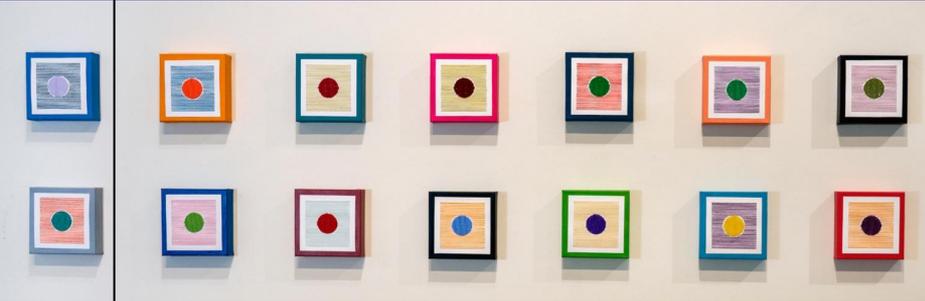
Moving Forward #6 (detail)



Not All is For Sale

# The Space Between Reflection

In what ways do each artist's work fit the  
concept of "the space between?"

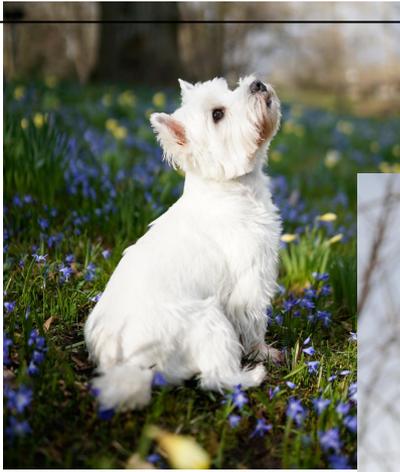


# Clay Menagerie

## Step-by-Step Instructions

Anita Fields often helps groups to create community projects and exhibitions. Your group will follow her instructions to make an exhibition of animal sculptures. As you follow these steps, remember that the only goal is to turn a lump of clay into something else. Give yourself a time limit of 10–15 minutes to sculpt your animal and enjoy the zoo you create!





## Step One:

Imagine an animal that you like and are familiar with such as a pet or wild animal you see often.



## Step Two:

Knead the clay until you can dent the surface by squeezing it. Be careful—if you knead too much then the clay will be too soft to hold a shape.

## Step Three:

Pinch some clay to make your animal's head. Keep the head shape and neck length in mind. You'll add more detail later.



## Step Four:

Give the body a general shape. Does your animal have a lean body? Is it round? Is it upright, or low to the ground?





## Step Five:

To mark the legs, use a tool with a straight edge to press a line lengthwise on the bottom of your animal. If it walks on four legs, make another cut widthwise. (Skip this step if your animal doesn't have legs!)

## Step Six:

Form the legs by pinching and pulling the sections you just made.





## Step Seven:

If your animal has a tail, pull the clay at the back of the body into a tail shape.

## Step Eight:

Add detail to the head by pinching, pulling, and pushing clay. You can use your tool to help shape ears, horns, eyes, mouth, and other shapes.



## Step Nine:

Scratch or press the surface of your animal to show fur, hair, scales, feathers, and other details.





## Step Ten:

You're done! Let your animal dry overnight in a cool, dry place.

## You Did It!

How do you feel about the clay animal you created as you went along? Post your collage on social media and tag @108contemporary with the hashtag #108craftkits!



# Other Resources

- **Other Craft Kits**
  - <https://108contemporary.org/craft-kits/>
- **Anita Fields Artist Talk**
  - [https://fb.watch/8GUKI\\_YrTC/](https://fb.watch/8GUKI_YrTC/)
- **Molly Murphy Adams Artist Talk**
  - <https://youtu.be/yndJeh3s0uq>
- **Osage Nation Website**
  - <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/>
- **Salish Kootenai Interactive Educational Resources**
  - <http://fwrconline.csktnrd.org/>
- **Lakota Beadwork**
  - <https://sites.coloradocollege.edu/indigenoustraditions/6-%E2%80%A2-independent-projects/lakota-beadwork-and-the-medicine-wheel/>