

## PRESSED MOLD MAKING



Pressed mold making is a process in which a pliable material, such as hot glass or clay, is forced into a more substantial mold shape (usually plaster or metal) as a way of producing large amounts of consistently shaped products. Lalique used molds to cast most of his designs to make fine art accessible to the middle classes/everyday people. In this lesson we will explore a simple pressed mold and learn about using negative molds to create a positive object. This project teaches us one of the tools of mass production to better understand the way industry works.

A negative mold is one in which a cavity is created that has some type of shape and/or design. You make a positive object by filling the negative mold with material such as clay or glass, like Lalique did. The material will take the shape of the cavity and the final product will be a duplicate of the original object used to make the mold.

### MATERIALS:

- Play-Doh
- Small objects for impression
- Corn starch
- Body lotion
- Paper plate
- Wax paper
- Plastic silverware

### LEARNING STANDARDS:

**Visual Arts Cr2.1.6:** Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design

**Economics 2.6-8.5:** Analyze how the forces of supply and demand have affected the production, distribution, and consumption of goods, services, and resources in the United States in the past or present.

**Economics 1.6-8.3:** Analyze examples of how groups and individuals have considered profit and personal values in making economic choices in the past or present.

## PRESSED MOLD MAKING (CONT.)



### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Form Play-Doh into a brick about 3 by 5 inches long and 1 ½ inch high. Use plastic knives and hands to work the Play-Doh into shape.
2. Press your small objects, such as a plastic animal or seashell, into the Play-Doh and then remove the object leaving a cavity impression.
3. Let your Play-Doh mold (negative) dry overnight so the Play-Doh becomes somewhat firm, this will help it not stick to your homemade clay when you are ready to make your molded artwork (positive).
4. Measure 1 cup corn starch with 1/2 cup body lotion on the center of a piece of wax paper or paper plate. It's important to use wax paper or a paper plate to protect your work surface. Mix with your hands and/or plastic spoon until you get a smooth consistency. If needed, add more cornstarch, one tablespoon at a time, until your mixture is smooth and dough like.
5. Make a small ball of your newly made clay. It should be about the size of your Play-Doh mold. Press the clay gently, but firmly, into your Play-Doh brick mold and remove immediately. Use a plastic knife or fork to pry out if needed.
6. Set aside to dry overnight, or up to 2 days depending on the thickness of your mold.
7. You can make multiple pressed molds using your remaining clay. Making multiples of an object is a great way to make art!