

Third Grade Art Portfolio

After learning about the prehistoric origins of art and creating their own "cave Facebook pages" on a heavily textured surface, 3rd graders were ready to explore more about the evolution of sculpture.

Relief sculpture is a form of sculpture that projects in varying degrees from a two-dimensional background. Relief sculptures give the impression that the sculpted material has been raised above the background plane. Relief sculpture was very popular in Ancient Greece. Using what they have been learning in their classroom, students quickly made a connection that the founders of Washington, DC were inspired by the civilization and ideals of Ancient Greece. Our observant artists were able to notice relief sculptures and other classical design elements on buildings here in Washington, DC.

Using terra cotta clay that had been rolled and cut into tiles, our artists applied both ADDITIVE and SUBTRACTIVE techniques to create geometric designs. In 2015-2016, we hope to fire and install these tiles as part of a collaborative work.



Why a portfolio? A portfolio approach (storing work in the classroom) allows students to revisit their previous work for inspiration or revision. As developing artists, students often learn a lot by looking at a chronological record of their work, comparing pieces of their art side by side and being able to share their work with other students.

Why are drafts or unfinished projects included in the portfolio? Artists rarely ever completely finish with a piece. Sometimes a work that isn't finished, provides valuable inspiration for future work.