

cjwalas says **I thought tonight we'd discuss some of the focus of the assignment.**

insanerocketkid says just thought id see what's going on here

cjwalas says **Mike, feel free to break in anytime with any question or thought. We're a little free-wheeling here.**

BnEgscave says Rocket Kid - a new form of engineer figure may be required here.

cjwalas says **We've started a homework assignment; three ghosts, three poses, three emotions. Is that it?**

Rick Raively says **normally the Teacher needs a glass of wine or two during the hr long class** 😊😋

Rick Raively says **Yes Chris**

Torby says **Yep. I have 2 started that I kind of like, but I'm not sure about the third. Think I'll do him different.**

jlcop says *yeah, that's it.*

cjwalas says **The glass is at hand, rest assured, LB.** 😊

cjwalas says **The reason I thought ghosts would be nice is that they can be done simply, without serious consideration for anatomy, etc....**

Rick Raively says **cjwalas says How about this; three GHOSTS, three poses, three expressions. cjwalas says The ghosts can be as simple as the traditional white sheets, but the focus is on telling the relationship between the three through the poses and facial expressions.**

cjwalas says **So the focus can be on portraying the fluid nature of a pose...**

jlcop says *I've got three foil armatures done but no ideas* 😞

cjwalas says **You are quick, Rick. Extra points.**

Torby says **I had in mind "Whispy" nature...**

cjwalas says **Very much, Rick. I want you to think of Smiley's as far as the faces go; simple but very easily read expressions.**

BnEgscave says I haven't had time to even think about it much as yet.

cjwalas says **The relationship doesn't have to be as immediate as the last three figure assignment, just so that they're not all portraying similar expressions.**

Torby says **Hmmm. Mine would be, roughly translated (clears throat)** 🙄😋 and 😊

cjwalas says **You can do very different styles of figures if you like.**

cjwalas says **I look forward to those translations, Tom!** 😊😋

cjwalas says **I haven't started either, except for doing a quick sketch.**

Rick Raively says **of course I was thinking of taking a picture of a white piece of paper and say that ghosts don't photograph well**

Ms. pcentral says **I started** 😊

cjwalas says **Back in the corner, Rick.** 😊

Ms. pcentral says **got one done**

Ms. pcentral says **working on #2**

cjwalas says **It figures, Y. You're always ahead of the pack!**

cjwalas says **Anyone want to make it more interesting?**

jlcop says *Teacher's Pet* 😊

cjwalas says **What do you think about limiting the color palette?** 😊

Rick Raively says **floating around on a rocket power stomper???**

cjwalas says **I think we're going to have to do a Stomper Challenge in the near future.**

Ms. pcentral says **NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO**

Torby says **I thought about white with a tint of blue or pink to emphasize gender.**

cjwalas says **Can I take that as a "yes", Y?**

Rick Raively says **I was only thinking of either white, grey, or black**

Ms. pcentral says 😞😞😞😞😞

cjwalas says **The reason I suggest it is that it would relieve some of the pressure of a full paint job.**

Torby says **Y already has hers wearing "Holly Hobby" sheets 😊**

cjwalas says **Seems like Y has already painted her ghost. Pink, maybe? 😊**

Ms. pcentral says **not yet..... 😊😊😊**

Torby says **Well we be graded on our understanding of the spiritual realm?**

Ms. pcentral says **but don't want to limit my options**

cjwalas says **Fine. Not a problem, Y. Use as much or as little color as you want. This exercise is NOT about the paint jobs; it's about the pose and expressions.**

BnEgyscale says **Do you dream in color?**

cjwalas says **Absolutely, Tom! 😊**

cjwalas says **Yes, Bob. The color is mauve. 😊**

Rick Raively says **yes, techno color**

cjwalas says **What I really want you to try and understand is the MINIMUM it takes to convey an emotion.**

jlcop says **really I would have thought "Psycho" dellic Rick 😊**

cjwalas says **Good one, JL! 😊😊😊**

Torby just entered Figure Class

cjwalas says **Think Smileys and body language. You don't have to do Disney Haunted Mansion ghosts.**

Rick Raively says **what's that JL?**

cjwalas says **I'll make it easier on you as well. These figures don't have to relate to each other in any way if you don't want them to.**

jlcop says **whew! 😊**

Ms. pcentral says

Torby says **Mine do. But that was my idea.**

Rick Raively says **hmmmm, be very worried when the teacher is "making it easy"**

cjwalas says **Just try to make them immediately readable from the pose and face.**

cjwalas says **You're right to be worried, Rick. This assignment is not as easy as it may seem. Mooohahaaa! 😊**

cjwalas says **It's much easier to define a character when you have clothes, accessories, or anything else you want to help define them,**

cjwalas says **But the simplest form of anything is usually the hardest to define!**

Rick Raively says **I knew there would be a catch**

Ms. pcentral says **WHAT WE CAN'T USE PROPS? you NEVER said that! 😊**

cjwalas says **I never said you could, either! 😊**

Torby says **Oh! Each of my three has 1 prop.**

cjwalas says **The assignment is three figures, three poses, three expressions.**

Period. 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

Rick Raively says **and the other shoe drops**

cjwalas says **OH, fine. I'm such a pushover!**

cjwalas says **BUT! You will get EXTRA CREDIT IF YOU DON'T USE PROPS!!** 😊
👍👍👍👍👍

Rick Raively says **is credits like the old TV show "who's line is it anyway" where the points mean nothing?**

Rick Raively says **but it is a ghost shoe and went through the floor**

Torby says **hehe I'm using props to disconnect them from a context where you would think of ghosts.**

cjwalas says **Just kidding, Y. Full credit for anyone who finishes the assignment is about as far as I can push it , anyway!**

Rick Raively says **coming out of some grave stones?**

cjwalas says **Fine. Whatever, but they darn well better have some good expressions!**

Torby says **Nope! You would never think of ghosts doing this** 😊

cjwalas says **Sounds like fun, Tom. Can't wait to see. When did I say this was due?**

Torby says **Feb 13th.**

Rick Raively says **hmmm, never think.... Paying for a dog's license, Getting a plane ticket....**

cjwalas says **Too bad it's not Friday the 13th!**

Rick Raively says **nope Monday the 13th of Feb**

cjwalas says **Does anybody have any general figure making questions at this point?**

Torby says **Day before Valentines.**

Torby says **Um. Maybe a suggestion.**

Rick Raively says **yes, how does one make these clay figures??**

Torby says **"Throw away your sculpy."**

Torby says **But then, I did make two very lovely bears from Sculpy.**

Rick Raively says **Oh, the fast technique then**

Torby says **Didn't work at all for these three.**

cjwalas says **Sculpey can be mixed with other polyclays remember!**

Rick Raively says **How can Premo float?**

cjwalas says **Sculpt it into a boat, Rick.** 😊

jlcop says *I won't be here on the 13th. I'll try and get the assignment done and e-mail the url for the picture* 😊

cjwalas says **Yes, please, JL. Sorry we won't have you with us then.** 😊

Rick Raively says **float in mid air then**

Torby says **I figured on mounting them on paperclip wire stands so they don't touch the ground.**

cjwalas says **Two stainless steel balls baked into the figure and held in mid air electro-magnetically.**

Rick Raively says **was thinking you would come up with mirror tricks**

cjwalas says **That works too, Rick.**

Rick Raively says 😊

Torby says **Stainless isn't very magnetic.**

Torby says **I do have some of those tiny little monster magnets** 😊

cjwalas says **Sorry, you're absolutely right, Tom. Iron. How about that?**

BnEgscake says **Why would we want to mix sculpy with other polyclays?**

Rick Raively says **boy, Dana would even know that one Chris..hehehehe**

cjwalas says **EXCELLENT question, Bob. And the amazing thing is that there are actually reasons to do so.**

Torby says **I would guess to soften them.**

cjwalas says **Sculpey has a filler in it that gives it a specific, even and opaque quality.**

BnEgscle says OK, Chris. What clays and why?

cjwalas says **In fact, Tom, Sculpey stiffens some other polyclays.**

cjwalas says **Sculpey is great to add to flexible polyclays if they are too gummy to work with. They also help with some of the stickier Premos to cut down on the sticky-ness.**

BnEgscle says I've used to Premo with standard Sculpey to stiffen it.

Torby says **Hmm. Wouldn't have thought that. Sculpey seems so much stickier to me.**

cjwalas says **Eraserclay and Sculpey SuperFlex are made stronger with the addition of some Sculpey.**

Rick Raively says **I used eraserclay but ended up with nothing 😞**

BnEgscle says Yeah, me to Tom.

cjwalas says **Sculpey has a putty like feel while some of the lower pigment polyclays have a gummy quality to them.**

BnEgscle says Yeah, me to Tom.

Torby says **What I like about Premo is it's fairly easy to adhere to baked Premo and fine details have some strength and don't break off so easily as Sculpey or Fimo.**

cjwalas says **The key is that Sculpey and flexible polyclays have different plasticizers in them that work against each other in a way that's good for us.**

Torby says **Oh. Duh. I'm a little slow tonight, Rick.**

BnEgscle says By stronger, do you mean the finished baked item or the clay strength while working with it?

cjwalas says **Eraserclay is exactly what the name suggests...clay to make erasers. It's the same stuff that pencil erasers are made out of now, formulated to be sculptable.**

cjwalas says **That's an important distinction, Bob. I mean the finished, baked product.**

Torby says **Does it smell like grade school? For some of us, that is NOT a good memory 😊**

Rick Raively says **is stronger finished product more fragile?**

Rick Raively says **hmmm, that could be a good thing for certain projects 😊**

BnEgscle says I dropped my elephant rider yesterday at our club meeting. Good we did those sessions on repairs. Although she is sculpted of Premo she ended up with a broken arm and neck.

cjwalas says **When I say stronger, I mean stronger. Much tougher. Not as flexible, so not great for delicate and fine details, but a figure you can throw off a building and not have it break.**

cjwalas says **Yes, Premo is tough, but still breakable. It's not as brittle as styrene and yet not as resilient as a PVC figure.**

BnEgscle says So this would be good for thin pieces that need high strength. What do we mix to get this strong clay?

Torby says **Yes. I find my Premo figures much less delicate than the others.**

cjwalas says **That's why it's worth the extra effort to do the details out of Super Flex if the figure is going to be handled much.**

Rick Raively says **can flexible clay be used at arm joints?**

Torby says **And I can work my Premo into much thinner sheets.**

BnEgscall says You mentioned Super Flex some time ago. I can not find that marketed in this area. Might it go by some other name?

cjwalas says **ALL of the Polyclays can be used with one another. ALL of the polyclays from Polyform Products (Sculpey, Premo, etc.) can be MIXED with each other to create specific qualities.**

cjwalas says **Superflex should be available in the same stand as the Premo and Sculpey. Polyform Products supplies it as part of their store display.**

Torby says **That loco is a thing of beauty. Does it get a Lemurian crew?**

cjwalas says **Most of the polyclay I use is mixed from different lines. I mix my leftovers until they have the quality I want at the time I'm sculpting.**

Rick Raively says **nah, A Gill, Zena, Dana crew 😊😊**

cjwalas says **For mixing Sculpey and Eraserclay, I add a smaller amount of Sculpey to a larger amount of Eraserclay. You have to work it slowly or it turns horribly gummy.**

Torby says **And to think, you thought you wrecked it twice.**

cjwalas says **The Lemurians are waiting for another, more ambitious, project!** 😊😊

cjwalas says **The funny thing was that as soon as my daughters saw that I had named it after Gill, they asked if I was going to name an engine after them!!**

BnEgscall says What properties do you end up with when you mix the sculpey and Eraserclay?

cjwalas says **What I do when I mix polyclays is to make a small "thing". this thing is about three quarters of an inch in length and is a flattened blob on one end and a snake tail at the other. I bake it out and then see how easy it is to bend it and break it. This tells me if I need to add more flex or Sculpey to the mix.**

cjwalas says **It's like a very dense, but more flexible pencil eraser, Bob.**

Torby says **So you can adjust the bendiness. More sculpey, less bend?**

cjwalas says **Yeah, Sorry, guys. My family is waiting for me and Gill is doing that "be real busy around Chris so he notices thing".** 😊

Rick Raively says **Night Chris, thanks for the Class**

Torby says **G'night, Chris.**

Torby says **Maybe next time we'll talk more about blending.**

jlcop says **OK Chris, thanks again and good night** 😊

BnEgscall says Great session tonight Chris. I would like to peruse this again some time. Thanks!!!

cjwalas says **Exactly, Bob. But also remember that you can add Premo to the mix for strength. Elasticlay (my favorite of the flexible clays) can be used instead of eraserclay, but it's gummier faster.**

cjwalas says **Let's continue this next time, because it let's you customize the polyclay to the way you like!**

cjwalas says **Next time, guys! Nite!**