

# Joan Miro

1893-1983



Miro was one of the most accomplished artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While he is primarily known for his surrealist paintings, a closer look reveals an artist of many mediums. He was from a region in northeastern Spain called Catalonia and his hometown is Barcelona. Barcelona was home to many famous artists including Pablo Picasso, Salvado Dali, and Antoni Gaudi.

Miro's most famous works were created when he experienced a new point of view called the Dada movement. The Dada movement fought against typical ways of expression. The artists of this movement tried to create works in imaginative and unique ways. Their style had no traditional structure or meanings. It was independent.

The Dada movement encouraged Miro to use symbols in his paintings and later when he began sculpting he incorporated the same ideal. Miro often used exaggerated features and gestures in his art.



The Joan Miro Foundation Museum, Barcelona



Joan Miro sculpture @ Kimball Art Museum, Ft. Worth T



Joan Miró (1893-1983)  
Femme (Femme debout)



Joan Miró, *Monument*, 1956, earthenware



**OBJECTIVE:**

Create a small sculpture inspired by the abstract sculptures of Miro.

**MATERIALS:**

Plus Air Dry Clay  
Examples of Miro's sculptures  
Clay tools

**MOTIVATION:**

View some of Miro's sculptures and discuss how the forms show emotions.

**GRADES:**

This exercise is adaptable for grades 5 – 12.

**SUBJECT:**

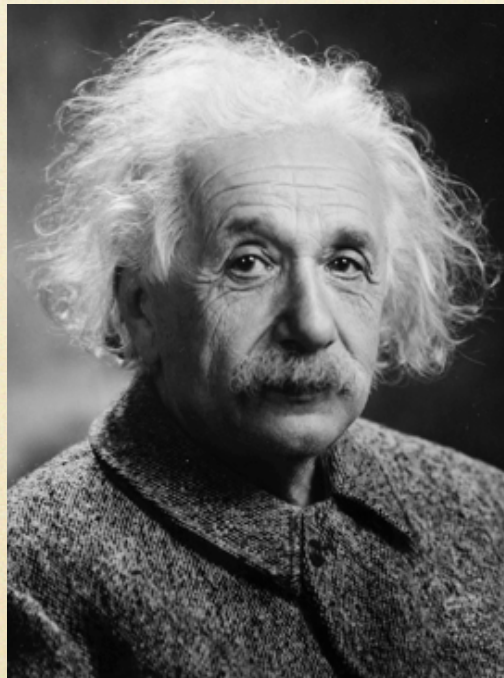
Art History, Sculpture, Hand Building, Joan Miro, Abstract Art





**STEP 1:**

Have students find a picture of someone they admire (i.e. world leader, athlete, musician, family member).  
For example, Einstein.



Photograph by [Orren Jack Turner](#), Princeton, N.J.



**STEP 2:** Slice a piece of ½ inch to 1 inch slab of plus clay.

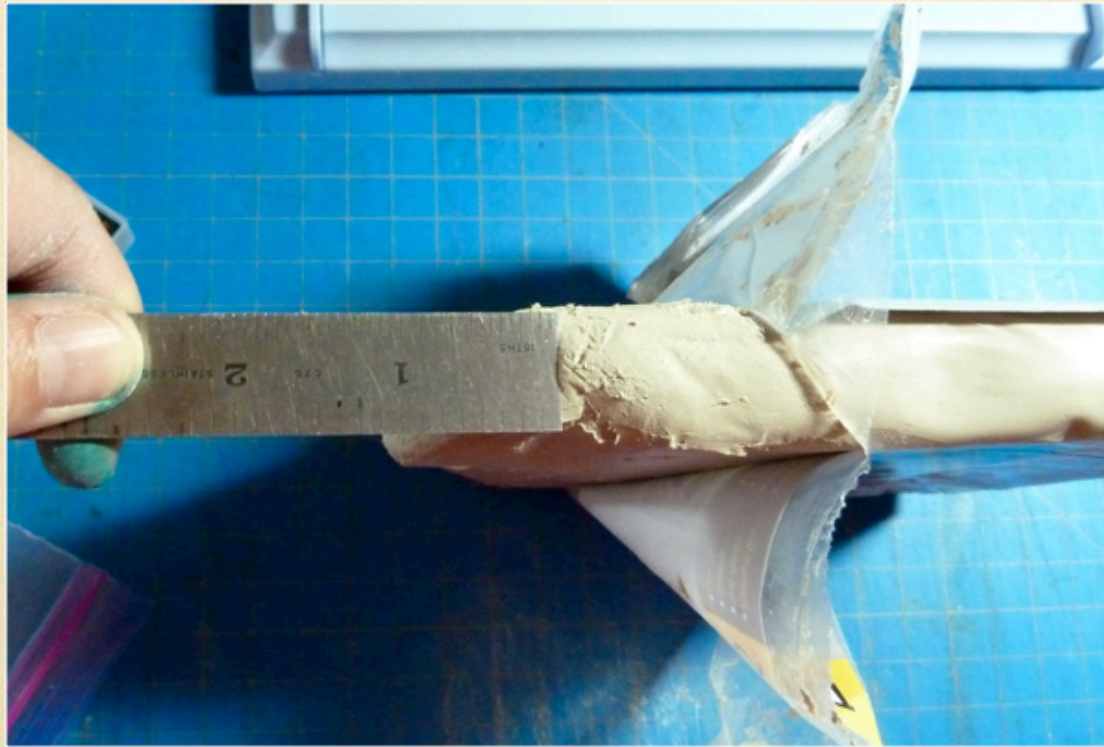


Photo credit: Tammy Pruitt



**STEP 3:**

Begin shaping your abstract sculpture. But don't forget to make an exaggerated shape with the clay that expresses the person's emotion or strengths (i.e. the excitement of winning, the feeling of singing or playing an instrument).



Photo credit: Tammy Pruitt

In reading about Einstein, it becomes clear that he viewed the world in a different way. So in this abstract piece, the eyes are exaggerated.



**STEP 4:**

Begin to sculpt the person the way you see him/her. It should be abstract so sculpt the reality in symbols. Incorporate the exaggerated shape into your sculpture.



Einstein was always thinking and looking. Along with big eyes, he has long tentacles coming from the head.

Photo credit: Tammy Pruitt



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