Japanese Tea Bowl

Pinch Pot Styles
Ceramics: A (VERY) Brief History

Ceramics is one of the most ancient industries on the planet. Once humans discovered that clay could be dug up and formed into objects by first mixing with water and then firing, the industry was born. As early as 24,000 BC, animal and human figurines were made from clay and other materials, then fired in kilns partially dug into the ground.
Eastern Influence

Ceramic techniques from China, Japan and the Korean peninsula are widely considered to have one of the greatest influences on Western art in modern human history.
Japanese Tea Bowl

Chawan = tea bowl used to prepare and drink tea (matcha)

*Tea bowls should fit perfectly in the hands of the drinker*

Tea bowls are made in a variety of shapes depending on the type of tea prepared and the season.
Draw each teabowl and label it with its name

Use one page of your sketchbook for each teabowl. Make the teabowls fill the page.
Wa-nari = Circle Shape
Sugi-nari = Cedar Shape
Ido-gata = Well Shape
Ido-gata = Well Shape with Bamboo Style Foot
Goki-gata = Goki Shape
Dogimari-gata = Waist Shape
Summer Shape Tea Bowls
Diagram of a tea bowl -- cross section
Japanese Teabowl Feet

- Wa Kodai Ring Foot
- Bachi Kodai Plectrum-Shaped Foot
- Takenofushi Kodai Bamboo Node Foot
- Sakura Kodai Cherry Blossom Foot
- Wariichimonji Kodai Two Split Foot
- Warijumonji Kodai Four Split Foot

as seen in: Pottery Making Illustrated

Robin Ouellette
In your sketchbook draw two teabowls (same shape/style) with feet.

Draw design ideas on the body of your two teabowls that express a relationship.

Do not use WORDS.

You will be lightly carving these designs into the clay of your teabowls before they are bisqued fired.

Ideas:

Think of simple, minimal design that show shape, repetition, pattern

Think of creating mirror images with your designs.
Making Tea Bowls (and any ceramics) is about mindfulness, patience and daily attention.

Build your pots slowly and evenly, but tend to them every day! If you skip one day (due to school schedule, field trip, illness) you will need to come in the very next day to work on your piece. Otherwise it could dry out, if left for two or more days. Of course, there are weekends to consider! Wrap your work in progress well in the plastic bag so there are no air leaks.
Pinch Pot Technique

Step-by-step

- Begin making 2 pinch pots
- Work SLOWLY--craftsmanship matters
  Think about which shape your pot will be!
- Leave ~ ¼-½” thickness at bottom
- Try to make the walls as EVEN as possible
- Each pot should be approx. 4” tall
- Let your pots “rest” on rim in plastic bag
Watch this video:
watch this one:
and this one:
and lastly, this one: