

## Tier Time Lesson Idea

### Designer Toys Lesson

Students learn about the contemporary practice of creating designer toys, including its history, and some of the most famous producers of these toys.

**Designer toys** are toys and other collectibles produced in [limited editions](#) (as few as 10 or as many as 2000 pieces) and created by artists and designers. Designer toys are made of variety of materials. Made of plastic and vinyl, resin, metal, and wood are sometimes used. Creators of designer toys usually have backgrounds in [graphic design](#), [illustration](#) or self-described [low brow](#) art; some are classically trained in art and design, while others are self-taught. Designer toys first appeared in the 1990s and are still in production today. (could introduce what “low-brow” art is as well as illustration and design. I have many prints that I could bring in to represent lowbrow art for the students)



Could introduce KidRobot Dunny series, Qee Series, and other popular manufacturers

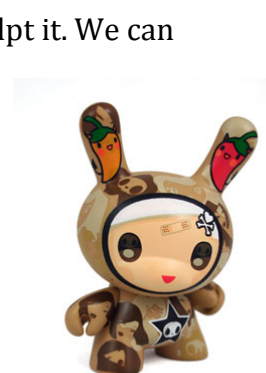
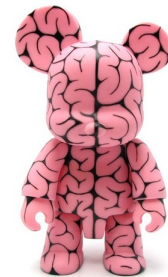
Most vinyl toys are produced in factories in China, though some designers have shifted production to Japan where higher quality materials such as clear vinyl are used. Designer toys are rarely produced in the

United States due to environmental restrictions on the production of vinyl, some exceptions are resin and plush toys.

Students could choose a simplified form from one of these companies or create their own, but they must use simple shapes. Students will design their artist toy, giving it a character and persona. What is its personality like? What does it do?

After they figure it out on paper they can sculpt it. We can decide to use tin foil to make them larger or they can make them solid and they would be smaller. I think the tin foil idea is better because it will cut down on the amount of clay needed

I would bake the sculptures and then students would have the opportunity to



paint them. I have a ton of extra acrylics that can work well on sculpey that I would bring in. I also have sculpey glaze that I would be more than willing to let them use

I think that this would be a really fun and contemporary lesson for the students so they can get a glimpse of contemporary artist practices and learn a little about current art movements and materiality. The simplified forms of the examples would also be manageable, learn about breaking things down into shapes.

### Oaxacan Animal Sculptures

Students learn about Oaxacan animal carvings and then design and create one of their own.

Use same tinfoil techniques and I would bring in same materials





Claes Oldenburg food sculpture.

Could use some of the same techniques as above.

Would need to be adapted because I don't think there would be enough clay for this lesson.

Still another interesting idea that can be attached to an artist.