

BREAKING WATER

Nature as Metaphor

GRADE LEVEL: K-12 (with adaptations)



OBJECTIVE

Artist Cleo Fariselli uses clay to create shell-like sculptures. Using materials such as air-dry clay or model magic, students can create their own shell sculptures. Fariselli's sculptures consider how her body may have "small shortcomings" or flaws but by overcoming those flaws she is stronger. Like oysters, the sculptures have a rough exterior with a smooth and pearlescent interior. She refers to the oyster's process of creating a pearl as it relates to the transformation of embracing our flaws.

VOCABULARY

Raku Nacre Autobiography

MATERIALS

- Clay or model magic
- Paint
- Clay tools
- Paint brushes

BEFORE HAND

- Gather materials. Introduce students to *Breaking Water* and Cecilia Bengolea's work through the CAC's [teacher resources](#) such as educator guides, virtual tour, and the links below.

PROCEDURES

Part A: Science and Nature

- Use this help aid, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1M68UofTAw> to explain the process of how an oyster creates a pearl.
- Do students see the visual similarities between oysters and Fariselli's sculptures? If so, what are they?
- Based on what we know about the artist, why do students think she makes her artwork look this way?

Part B: Process

- Fariselli uses clay pressed to parts of her body to create her sculptures. Using clay or model magic students will use their hands, elbows, or knees to create their sculptures.
- Clay tools will be used to create texture on the outside of the sculpture.

Part C: Discussion and Decorations

- While waiting for their sculptures to dry, students can discuss times they overcame adversity and how that made them feel.
- Finally, students will use paint to decorate both the interior and exterior of their oyster shells.

RESOURCES

- <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/cleo-fariselli/hwliF3FQwSXoLQ>
- <https://www.cleofariselli.com/bio>