



Forest School Art Lesson Inspired by Antony Gormley's *Field*

Objective:

To create a collaborative installation of clay figures inspired by Antony Gormley's *Field*, exploring individuality, community, and connection to the natural world.

Materials Needed:

- Air-dry or natural clay
 - Small wooden boards or mats (for working on)
 - Natural tools (e.g., twigs, leaves, stones) for shaping and texturing
 - A designated area in the forest for the final display
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Lesson Steps:

1. Introduction (15 minutes):

- Gather the group and introduce Antony Gormley's *Field*, showing pictures or describing how thousands of small clay figures were made by different people, creating a sense of collective humanity.
- Discuss how each figure represents a unique individual but is part of a greater whole.





2. Demonstration (10 minutes):

- Show how to sculpt a simple figure using clay, emphasizing that it doesn't need to be perfect or detailed—just a reflection of the maker's style.
- Encourage experimentation with natural tools to add textures or patterns.

3. Creative Time (30 minutes):

- Each child creates multiple small clay figures (1–3), ensuring each is unique.
- Encourage them to think about what their figures represent—e.g., emotions, family members, or their connection to nature.

4. Group Installation (20 minutes):

- Together, arrange the figures in a chosen spot in the forest, creating a "community" of sculptures.
- Discuss how the figures look as a group and how they reflect individuality within a collective.

5. Reflection (15 minutes):

- Gather around the installation and talk about the experience.
- Questions to prompt discussion:
 - How does it feel to see your figures alongside others'?
 - What does this collection say about our group?
 - How does it connect to the natural surroundings?

6. Closure:

- Leave the installation in the forest (if appropriate and environmentally safe) or carefully dismantle and take the figures back for display elsewhere.
- Remind the group of the importance of working together while valuing each person's contributions.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand and engage with the themes of individuality and community.
- Develop fine motor skills and creativity through sculpting.
- Foster an appreciation of nature as a setting for art and connection.
- Encourage collaboration and reflective thinking.

This activity aligns with the ethos of forest school and art by combining creativity, connection, and a sense of shared purpose.