Studio In Ceramics

Mr. Martin

KILN GODS aka kiln guardians

Serving as charms or talismans, kiln gods are meant to guard against any kind of bad luck that might happen.

Kiln gods are traditionally made out of raw or fired clay and placed over the entrance to the kiln.

In the book *Playing with fire and kiln Gods,* Martie Geiger-Ho explains why she is so driven to make ceramics.

“There are many reasons why American ceramists make kiln gods, however, I believe that, like myself, most ceramists make kiln guardians as a means for helping to relieve stress and to dispel the anxiety caused by the difficulty of trying to control the outcome of a ceramic firing. For me the process of ceramics has always seemed magical and I have never had a firing I could totally control, including electric kiln firings. This seems to be the case for most ceramists and I imagine that this is why so many different cultures from around the world have developed some sort of kiln god mythology as a way of coping with the insecurities that come with making and firing ceramics.”

The story is a tale about a benevolent potter who honorably sacrificed himself in the flames of a ceramic kiln in order to save the emperor's huge ceramic vessels from firing imperfections and in turn his fellow craftsmen from an unjust punishment, which they would have surely suffered, because the emperor's command for the production of the massive porcelain water jars was a task that was technically impossible to carry out.

Assignment/Requirements:

Build a Kiln god!!!

Your Kiln god needs to be 3-d.

Your Kiln god needs to be at least 2 inches wide and 3 inches tall

Your Kiln god needs to be a creature of some sort.

Your Kiln god needs to stand without support.