# Mythological Masks
## Grades K - 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Mythological Creatures Mask</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Artist</td>
<td>Pattie Chalmers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Descriptive Overview
Students will randomly draw or select features of their mask creature as a way to begin brainstorming and planning their mask and the myth or story that supports their creation. Students will then practice a variety of handbuilding clay skills to craft their masks including working with slabs as a base for their masks, then utilize coils and pinching techniques to create features and details.

## Arts Learning Community
Youth

## Time Required for Lessons
Variable, 1 – 1.5 hours over 1 – 2 sessions
This project can be taught to accommodate a variety of timelines. Longer instruction periods allow for a more discussion, drawing plans, character origin story development, exploration of subject matter such as a virtual viewing of the NCC exhibition The Secret Lives of Objects and the work of related artists, revision, critique, and a higher level of detail. Shorter periods allow students to embrace immediacy, a shorter clay working timeline, and abstraction.

## Learning Goals for Arts Learners
- Develop and conceptualize a character by creatively imagining the world and role of their character and crafting its origin story
- Practice and a variety of handbuilding skills and develop knowledge different forming techniques so they can be drawn upon by students independently while sculpting
Mythological Character Project:
Creating a clay mask for a made up mythological creature.

**START HERE**

Students select a slip of paper from each paper bag to determine attributes for each of their mythological characters.

- Nose
- Eyes
- Mouth
- Extras
- etc

**CLAY MASKS**

Students take selected qualities and use them to make a drawing on paper of their own mythological character, as they draw, they are prompted to decide further attributes and create an origin story.

- fish eyes
- scales
- bear snout
- frog mouth
- bat ears
- etc

Lastly: try masks on and do a dance.

**Supplies:** paper bags, paper pencils, clay, rolling pin, newprint, masking tape, clay tools, paint brushes, underglaze, slip, or paint.

Add features using coils and pinchpots, carve textures and make a hole on each edge for string, underglaze and slip for color or paint after fired.