



Image taken by Ghazaleh Avarzamani

Clay Shadows Activity Guide

Winter Holiday Programming:
Exploring Light and Shadow

Introduction

Clay Shadows is inspired by Ghazaleh Avarzamani's work *Broken Circle* in which she explores shape through the shadow of one original wooden spin top. To create this work, Ghazaleh used a digital modeling programme which allowed her to translate 2D shadows into 3D forms. As with *Broken Circle*, each spin top made will cast a unique shadowed form. Once your spin top is complete, you are invited to test its spinning abilities. Each clay spin top will take approximately 24 hours to dry.



Ghazaleh Avarzamani, *Broken Circle*, 2021. Photos taken by Toni Hafkenscheid.

Materials

Suggested

- Air dry clay
- Skewers
- Water cups
- Paper towel
- Baby wipes



Image taken by MOCA staff

Alternative Materials

For those who do not have air dry clay, there are a multitude of homemade clay recipes which can be made using baking soda, cornstarch and water, or flour, salt and water. Please note that these recipes require baking. Playdough can also be used to explore the act of shaping a spintop, though it will not harden.

Instructions

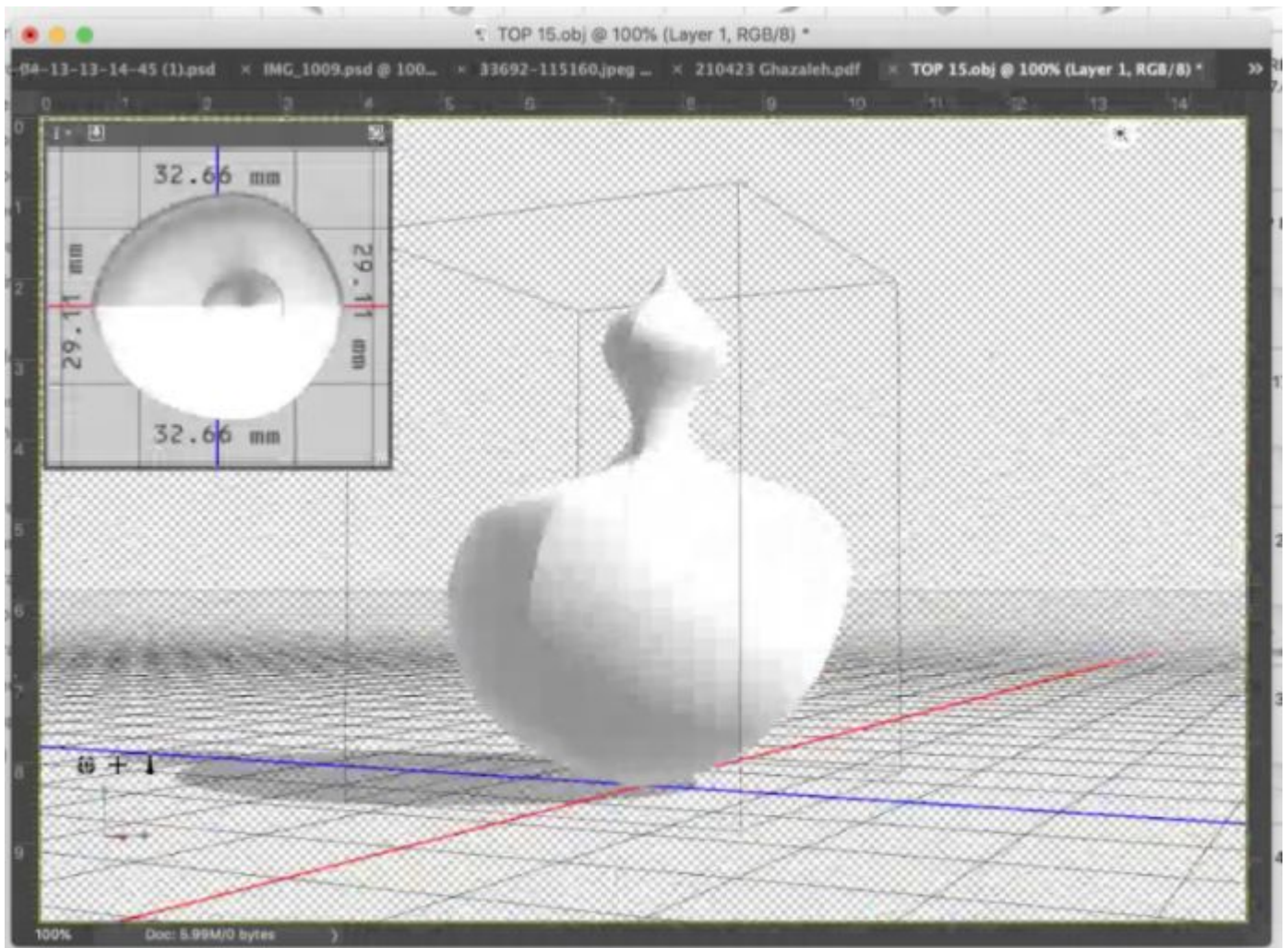
Clay Shadows

1. Brainstorm the shape your spintop will take.
2. Begin molding clay. Dip fingers lightly in water to moisten the clay when needed.
3. Use your fingers and any tools you have to form your desired shape.
4. If using air dry clay please follow the drying instructions on the package. If using homemade clay, it may need to be baked before hardening. Please follow the instructions available to you.



Guiding Questions

- A. How many different forms of the spin top do you think there are? How is yours different or similar?
- B. What kind of shadow does your spintop cast?
- C. Is your spintop able to spin? Do you want it to spin?



Broken Circle rendering, 2021