

# Reliquary for an Ordinary Object

Prof. Lucy Louise Derickson

## Research Assignment Due:

See course Calendar

## Finished project, and Reflection Due:

See course Calendar



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## Problem to Solve:

For this project you will research, design, and fabricate a reliquary for an ordinary everyday object.

## Techniques Covered:

Hinges, round containers, square containers, fitted lids, advanced soldering

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## Watch together in class:

PBS Art Assignment: Object Empathy

<http://www.theartassignment.com/assignments/object-empathy>

## Inspiration:

Relic:

- a tiny often physical indication of something lost or vanished
- something belonging to or surviving from an earlier period
- one that has passed the peak of effectiveness or popularity

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Think about the video we just watched. Think about the ordinary objects we surround ourselves with every day. Choose one of these ordinary objects and then create a reliquary for it. **Avoid objects that are already significant or sentimental to you**, and focus on the overlooked objects in your life. Avoid using jewelry, or particularly valuable objects. Additionally, you will need to find **SMALL objects**, as you will be limited in the size of your container. (Sizes of: erasers, match book, coin, button, gum wrapper, stamp, nail, bolt, bottle top etc.)

**The finished container can't be more than 3" in the longest dimension.**

## FIRST: Find your object

What objects do you use daily, monthly, yearly, or only once? Are they disposable or reusable? Is it handmade, mass produced or found in nature? Are there social or cultural associations you can make with these objects? What does the existence of this object communicate about our species or culture? How do you feel about that? What are you trying to bring attention to?

## NEXT: Design your container

Once you have chosen an object, consider what the reliquary should look like and how it should function. Does it reflect the contents, or hide it? Is the object inside visible, presented, or protected? Is it still able to be used, or has the function changed since being placed inside? What visual references are you borrowing from (nature, architecture, biology, mathematics, etc)? What surfaces, forms, and mechanisms are needed?

## FINALLY: Make a paper Model

When making your paper model remember the following:

1. Size (no more than 3" on longest side)
2. Type of lid (fitted, or hinged)
3. What materials will you use?
4. What surface texture will you create?
5. How will your relic (common object) be held in a SPECIAL way?
6. What embellishments (secondary pieces soldered onto the container) will enhance the design? (feet, handles, or decorative bits)



*Eun Young Choi  
Montgomery College  
Hinged container  
Object held in interesting way*



*Hong Wu  
Montgomery College  
Great embellishments  
Round container,  
fitted lid (entire wall)*



*Audrey Quesnel  
Montgomery College  
Object held in interesting way  
Excellent piercing  
Fitted lid (bottom is base)*



*Irish Carpo  
Montgomery College  
Square container, fitted lid  
Texture enhances design*

## Project Proposal:

In the art world, artists often write grants in order to receive funding to produce their work. To receive a grant you need a well thought out plan. To this end, you will be writing a proposal that argues three possible solutions to this assignment. After you present three ideas to the instructor, one design will be approved for you to move forward.

### Your Proposal will include:

3 common objects

3 paper models of reliquary designs (for above objects)

You must create 3 models (models showing exact size), one for each of your objects described above. Models should include textures, and any other surface details (piercing, embellishments, forms etc.) Design how the object is held in the container. You will need to **spend significant time** on these models.

**YOU MUST BRING your models AND objects to class** when you present your idea to the instructor. The one you choose should come to class with you every day. You will need it to build your container accurately. If you don't have access to the object, you cannot use it for your project.

*See next page for project requirements*

## Submitting your project: Grading/requirements

Category	Grading Criteria
<b>Research and Planning</b> 20 pts (graded separately)	Complete and submit your project proposals, including all criteria, to be discussed with the instructor.
<b>Reflection Worksheet</b> 10 pts	Complete the Reliquary Reflection document in the OneDrive folder. (Your reflection answers will determine how you are graded in other categories).
<b>Conceptual Investigation</b> <i>Artist Statement</i> 20 pts	You must explain your idea and how it connects to the assignment prompt on the reflection document. More points will be earned if your concept is unique, creative and/or engaging.
<b>Design and creativity</b> <i>Problem Solving</i> 20 pts	You must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a container with a fitted lid or a hinged lid.</li> <li>2. Create a design that relates to the object inside.</li> <li>3. Hold the ordinary object in a <b>special way</b>.</li> <li>4. Include at least one embellishment beyond the body of the container (handles, feet, rims, or decorative items).</li> <li>5. Use textured surfaces in thoughtful ways.</li> <li>6. Use finishing techniques (buffing and/or patina).</li> </ol>
<b>Craftsmanship</b> <i>Technical Development</i> 40 pts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hinges and lids are executed correctly.</li> <li>2. Solder seams are complete, no gaps.</li> <li>3. Excess solder pools are removed.</li> <li>4. Decking is filed flush (no ledge left).</li> <li>5. Non-textured surfaces are filed and sanded to 600 grit, no file marks.</li> <li>6. Finishing techniques (buffing/ patina) done correctly, and sealed correctly.</li> </ol>
<b>Critique</b> <i>Leadership and Critical Analysis</i> 10 points	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You must be on time to critique.</li> <li>2. You must contribute to the class discussion.</li> </ol> <p>*If your work is not complete, it is important that you still come to the critique and make verbal comments.</p> <p>Final projects can not be submitted late, unfinished projects will be graded as is, and receive no more than 50%.</p>

## Reliquary project Timeline

You should schedule at least 2 days a week to come in during open studio. Construction can be complicated and things don't always work the first time. Stay on top of the process! Do not fall behind on this schedule.

WEEK 1	<p>Research and models due (discuss with instructor)</p> <p><b>By end of week:</b> Lay out template (shapes to be used for walls) Add textures, and piercing while still flat</p>
WEEK 2	<p><b>By end of week:</b> Walls soldered</p>
WEEK 3	<p><b>By end of week:</b> Begin preparing fitted lid Finish decking</p>
WEEK 4	<p><b>By end of week:</b> Complete fitted lid component Complete mechanism to hold object</p>
WEEK 5	<p>Solder all embellishments (hinges, designs, feet, handles etc.) Clean up (file edges flush, remove excess solder, sand to 600)</p>
FINAL WEEK	<p><b>During open studio (Mon-Tues)</b> All final clean up All finishing (polishing and patina) Set rivets if part of the design</p> <p><b>Final Critique:</b> <b>BRING YOUR CONTAINER AND THE OBJECT INSIDE</b></p>