

Salt dough sculpting with Simon Shaw

For the dough you will need:-

2 cups of plain flour

1 cup of salt

Three quarters of a cup of water

Mix the flour and salt in a bowl and gradually add the water, stirring with a spoon as you go.

When the water is all added use your hands to knead into a smooth ball.

Leave the mix for 30 minutes.

For the modelling you will need:-

Bread board or similar

Small paint brush

Plastic/wooden modelling tool/knife or similar

Ball point pen/ pencil

1. Take about 1/4 of the mix and form into a smooth round ball. This is the main body of the fish. Flatten the ball out a little and gently pinch one end, forming a 'tear' shape....this will be the tail fin.
2. Roll out two equally sized small balls of dough for the eyes. Dab the area where the eyes will go with water and press eyes into place. For detail then press into the eyes with the end of the pencil/ biro.
3. Go back to the tail fin and pinch out into shape. With your modelling tools press 'scale' marks into the tail fin.
4. Take a small piece of dough and model a small triangle, this is the dorsal fin, stick the fin onto the back of the fish using a small dab of water as before.
5. Make two small 'snail' shapes and stick on the front of the fish using a small dab of water, forming the mouth.
6. With the modelling tool press 'scales' into the body of the fish and the fins, you can reinforce the detail as the piece dries.

I would suggest to let the piece dry naturally for a day or so, you can then put it in the oven to make it even harder. 10 minutes at 100c will be enough.

You can then paint the fish, any paint will do and mount it on a wooden or salt dough plinth if desired.