

Building on an Armature: Gesture & Expression in the Animal Form

Materials List

Armature

- Ware board (must be plywood, hardwood, or thick MDF [no drywall], preferably 3/4"-1" thick)
- Turntable/banding wheel
- Drill (driver bit and small bit for pilot holes)
- Various lengths of pipe and fittings for armature (depends on piece)
 - (I use 1/2" galvanized steel, but you can use black steel. For smaller pieces or maquette you could use 1/4" diameter)
 - A wide range of fittings are available, such as 45 and 90 degree elbows, cross fittings, tee fittings, and straight couplings, allowing for complex armatures to be built! Don't forget the floor flanges to screw into the board!
- Electrical tape (to wrap around pipes to protect them from rust)
- Vaseline or WD-40 (apply a tiny bit to the threading at the ends of the pipe and in the couplings to encourage easy dismantling of the armature)

Sculpting & Hollowing

- Your choice of clay, preferably something with a bit of grog/sand (I use a low fire earthenware with some fine grog)
 - Depending on size of the piece, you will most likely need 50-200lbs of clay
- Reference photos (cork board for easy hanging of lots of angles)
- Paddle or 2"x4" board
- Pottery wire (preferably thin and long)
- Needle tool/scoring tool
- Various metal/rubber ribs (I like the Mudtools ones that come in different rigidity levels), butter knives
- Spray bottle and a variety of brushes
- Preferred sculpting tools (I will show what I use during the demo)
 - I find rubber tip tools and Euclid carving/sculpting tools useful for detail work)
- Dowel rods (1/4", 3/8", 1/2" depending on size of piece)

- Pliers and electrical tape
- Use these for the arm/leg joint trick I showed during the demo!
- Foam (for hollowing)