The Technique of Sculpture

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This page is an introduction to the sculpture techniques I use when working with ceramic modeling clay. Most of the techniques are common to all types of clay, but some are more effective with ceramic clay. People often ask me whether I carve the clay by cutting into it, or model by adding the clay on. The short answer I use both methods pretty much equally - but I use others too. Here is a list of all the techniques I use. I will then go on to explain each one in a bit more detail. 1. Roughing out. Sculpture is the branch of the visual arts that operates in three dimensions. It is one of the plastic arts. Durable sculptural processes originally used carving (the removal of material) and modelling (the addition of material, as clay), in stone, metal, ceramics, wood and other materials but, since Modernism, there has been an almost complete freedom of materials and process. A wide variety of materials may be worked by removal such as carving, assembled by welding or modelling, or molded or cast. Sculpture - Sculpture - Modeling: In contrast to the reductive process of carving, modeling is essentially a building-up process in which the sculpture grows organically from the inside. Numerous plastic materials are used for modeling. The main ones are clay, plaster, and wax; but concrete, synthetic resins, plastic wood, stucco, and even molten metal can also be modeled. A design modeled in plastic materials may be intended for reproduction by casting in more permanent and rigid materials, such as metal, plaster, concrete, and fibreglass, or it may itself be made rigid and more permanent thr