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# About Me

Hi, my name is Huiwen Shen. I am a glass artist working with the technique called casting. Casting is the technique of melting glass into a plaster mold with a kiln firing.

The first time I tried casting was in 2 years of college time. I am surprised about how clear the glass comes out. I watched the teacher first knead the model with clay, and then cover the clay model with silicon. After the silicon dried, the teacher took out the clay. Then the melted wax was poured into the silicon to cool, the solidified wax model was taken out, and a lot of time was spent on modifying the wax model and adding details. Then the plaster water is mixed in a fixed ratio and poured around the wax model. After waiting for the temperature to cool down again, the wax model can be melted with steam, the volume of glass needed for the model is measured, and the glass is prepared and ready to be fired in the kiln. I initially saw the whole production process and thought it was very long and tedious, but when the final result appeared, I thought it was all worth it. I hope I can also learn these steps and methods and make my own satisfactory work.

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## LIFE

Usually I am a cheerful girl who loves nature. When I have difficulties in designing, I go for a walk in less crowded places.



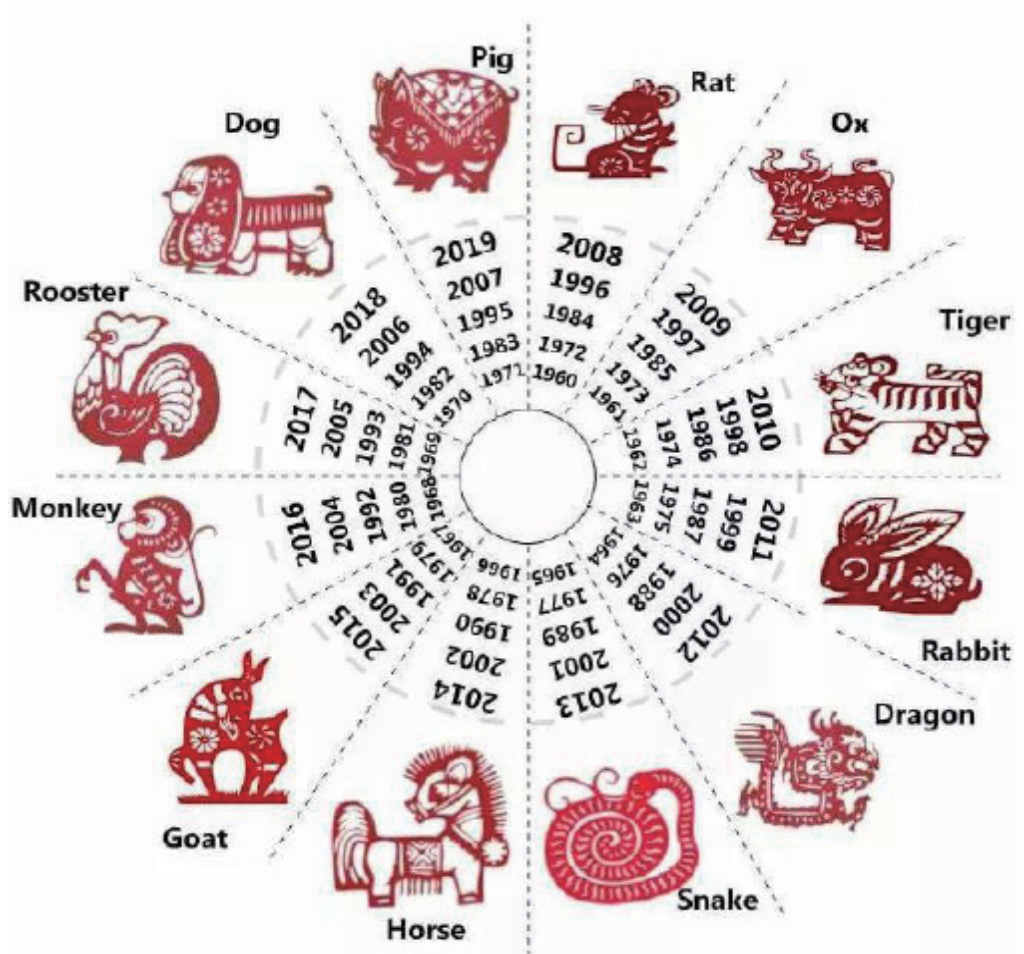
# CHINESE ZODIAC

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## WHAT IS CHINESE ZODIAC

An important aspect of Chinese culture is the Chinese zodiac, a 12-year astrological cycle in which a zodiac animal is assigned to a constantly repeating rotation for each year. The zodiac is an ancient belief system and is considered a tool for determining one's destiny. Following the traditional Chinese lunar calendar, the program is based on a 12-year cycle in which each new year is represented by one of the 12 zodiac signs.





The Chinese zodiac is made up of twelve different animals. As a long-standing folk culture symbol, the Chinese zodiac has left behind a large number of poems, spring couplets, paintings, calligraphy, and folk craft works depicting the images and symbolism of the Chinese zodiac through the ages. In addition to China, many countries around the world issue zodiac stamps during the Chinese New Year as a way to express their wishes for the Chinese New Year. The twelve zodiac signs are figurative representations of the twelve earthly branches, namely the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. The development of history gradually fused to the concept of folk beliefs of mutual birth and death, reflected in marriage, life, annual luck, et cetera. Each zodiac sign has a rich legend and in this way forms a system of conceptual interpretation and becomes a figurative philosophy in folk culture, such as the genus on marriage, temple prayers, the current year of life, et cetera. In modern times, more people use the Chinese zodiac as an auspicious object for the Spring Festival and as a symbol of entertainment and cultural activities.



# STORYTIME



## Folk Tales

Legend has it that one year, the Jade Emperor's birthday, ordered all the animals to come to the birthday on the ninth day of the first month, and decided to come to congratulate the birthday in the order of arrival of twelve animals selected as guards on the road to heaven, and take turns on duty by year.



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## History

One theory is that ancient astronomers divided the day and night into twelve hours. At the same time, when they observed the sky, they determined the twelve zodiac signs in accordance with the habits and activities of the twelve animals.



# DEVELOPMENT

## Twelve Constellations & Twelve Zodiac



They both take twelve as a cycle, that's what everyone knows. but they also have a lot of differences from each other, like the constellations are measured in months, while the Chinese zodiac is measured in years. Another point is In ancient times, in order to facilitate the identification of directions and observation of celestial phenomena during navigation, the stars scattered in the sky were linked together by imagination, and half of them were already named in ancient times. The other half were named only in modern times, often using nautical instruments. however for the Chinese zodiac, in ancient China, the hours were recorded according to the living habits of different animals. also In ancient times, working people divided a day and night into twelve periods, each of it is called an hour, using the twelve geographic branches as code names. Twelve hours are equivalent to 24 hours, and each hour is equal to 2 hours. According to the time and life characteristics of animals, each animal is an hour, and according to the habits of the zodiac in different hours, the order is discharged. However, one of the most important differences is that the names of the twelve constellations come from Western mythology or imagination, and they are not real. But the animals in the Chinese zodiac are all real, except for the dragon.



—Western astrology emphasizes the date and month of a person's birth. In contrast, the Chinese system regards the year of one's birth as the most important factor in determining one's destiny. In fact, a person's personality, as well as the dramatic events that occur in his or her life, are believed to be influenced by the animal characteristics of the Chinese zodiac associated with the year of his or her birth.

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# INSPIRATION

My main source of inspiration stems from my love for small animals. From a very young age I was surrounded by pets and spent most of my time playing with them when my family could not be with me. In the shape of the sculpture, since I am from China, I associate it with that cute behavior of the Chinese national treasure, the panda, when it hugs the bamboo and eats it.





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Pandas will habitually ring the bamboo when consuming it to ensure immobilization. I found this pose very cute and searched for many pictures of animals sitting or ringing their food in order to better understand this action.



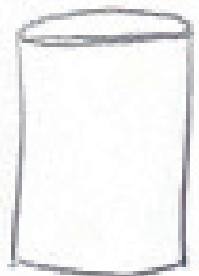
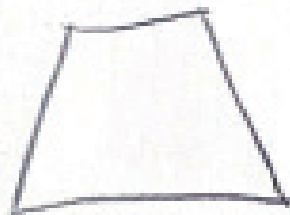
Me { Animal  
Chinese Culture



create a file for all

start  
↓  
reason  
↓  
how  
↓  
material  
↓  
result

base =



test =  
colour test { clear  
red  
material { crystal  
bullseye  
Spectrum  
mystery glass





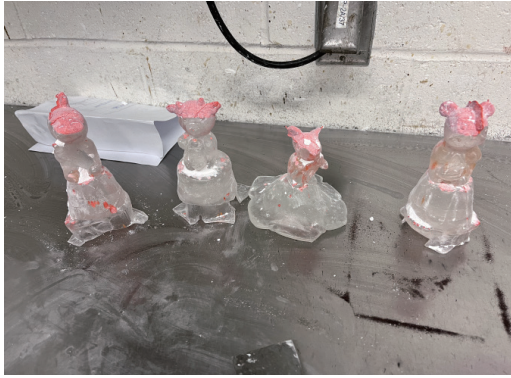
# PROCESS DEMO

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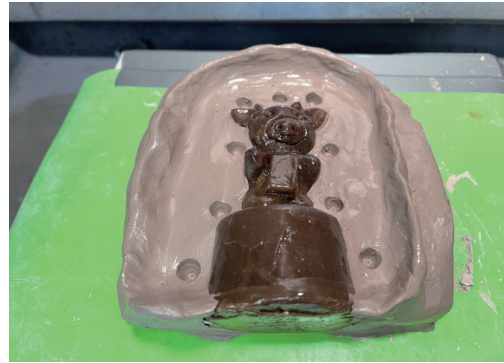
## Step Demonstration

Next is my production process  
step-by-step display





This is the test I did last semester.



This is the rubber model that I made for testing different material of glass.



Then I finished more models of the sculptures with clay



Spray mold release agent and put rubber on the model a layer and a layer, and dry out



Then I made them into silicon model, and pour wax in it to make wax model.



Made a plaster mold outside the rubber mold to keep the shape, then pour the wax in it.







This is how the wax mold come out from a raber mold, they keep the detail more better than silicon mold. Then I made the reserver for my wax mold.



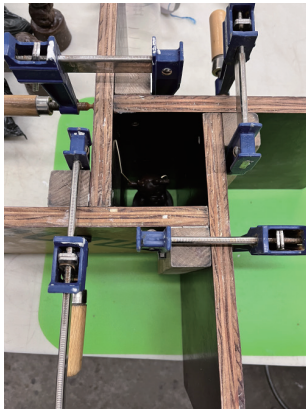
Then pour the plaster in it.



Small strips of wood are inserted at the tips, in order to let the air flow out and allow the glass to flow in better.



After plaster mold cold down, steam out the wax, Tie on the wire



Set up the woodboard around the mold, ready to pour plaster. This is how it looks like when the woodboard set up finished.



Calculate glass and sign up a kiln, set up the programme.



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