





Oni Theater

Student: Branden Bykerk

District: Freeman School District

School: Freeman High School

Instructor: Ken Spiering

Oni Theater

Medium: Glazed Ceramic Vessel

Artist Statement:

The idea for this piece came from the myth of the Japanese oni, a demon like creature that feeds and grows on the sins and evils of man. I chose to construct the clay piece not as an oni mask but as a bowl surrounded by an oni's horns and fangs, as to say that the bowl is the oni's mouth wide open and waiting to devour evil and negativity. The bowl is so deep and wide as to show just how much negativity can be shoved into it to feed the oni's evil spirit. As long as this bowl remains empty then the evil oni has no power and thus giving hope and positivity to anyone who looks at the bowl. The bowl will always remain empty. Over all the bowl is not to be seen as a negative thing but a symbol of hope and joy.

Description:

Ceramic vessel glazed dark rust exterior with light oatmeal color interior, and has protruding points on both ends with central raised arrowhead.

Status: Exhibit only