

Artist **ROBERTO LUGO**

Philadelphia-born artist Roberto Lugo riffs on the traditional representations of Benjamin Franklin found throughout the City of Philadelphia by putting a bandanna on him, way before social distancing requirements. Roberto's works are multicultural mash-ups, he combines portraits of famous people with popular designs and graffiti writing that gives his work a 21st-century street sensibility. He has been the recipient of many prizes and is in many Art Museum Collections. The vase below was bought by, and is currently on display at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The artist also includes his own self-portrait on the other side of the vase, creating an imagined dialogue between himself and Franklin.

All about the Benjamins Century Vase, 2016





Top, Self-Portrait of Roberto Lugo. Ram's head detail,

Panda's head detail.

Lesson Goal: To create your own meaningful vase designs.

The pictures are large in this lesson so that you can see the vase easier. Take a close look at each picture of the vase and the details. Think and talk about the answers to the following questions with family members:

- Why do you think he put a portrait of Franklin and himself on the same vase?
- What do the decorations on the vase remind you of?
- Why do you think he put a Ram's and Panda's heads on the sides? What could the heads be?
- What do you think Roberto meant to say by glazing his pot the way he did?

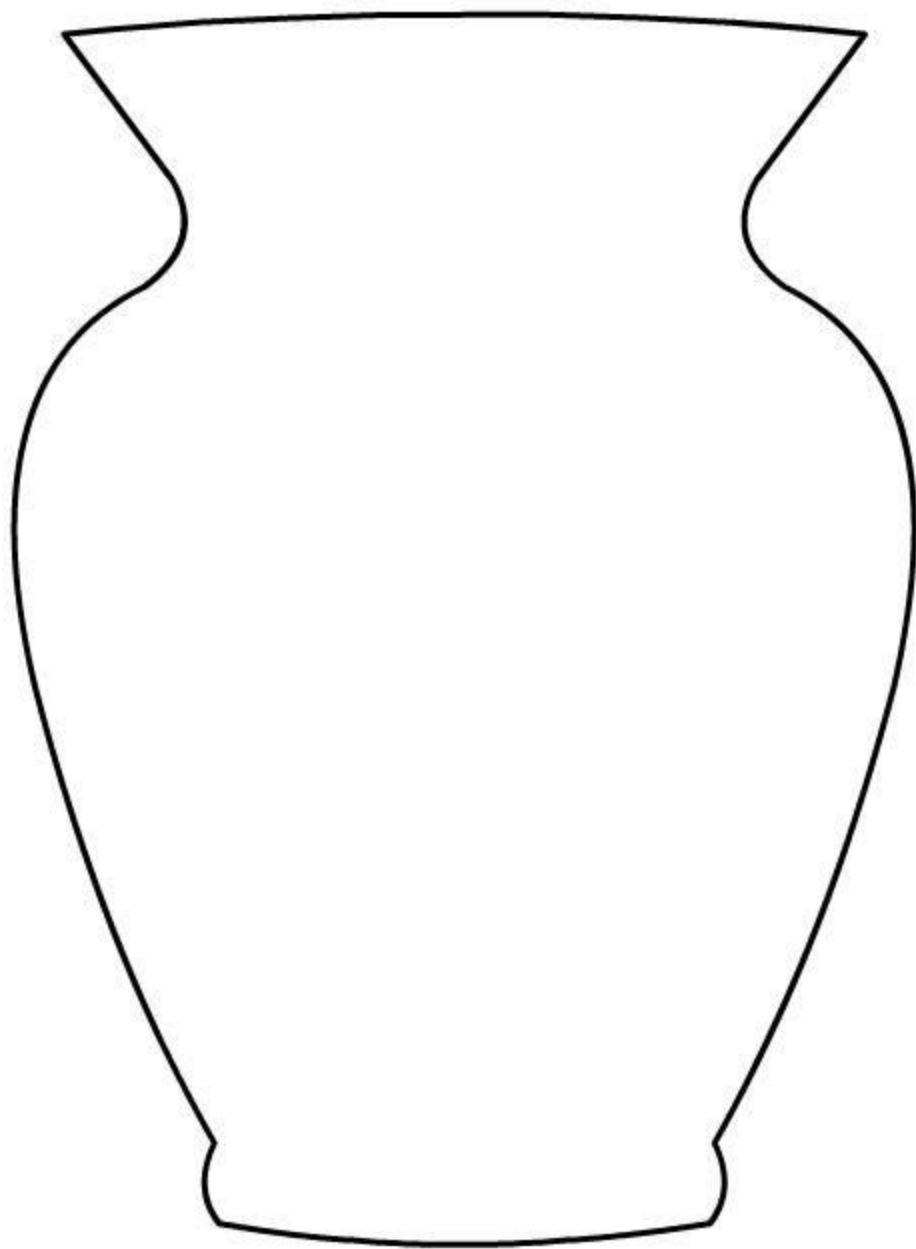
Activity:

1. Draw an outline of a vase or print out the one in this lesson.
2. Think about your vase as being about yourself and write down the words (small) that you think describe you on the corner of the paper. For example, words like: star, flowers, my pets, portrait, thoughtful, appreciative, funny, artistic, physical, musical, loves cars, etc.
3. Break up the vase into sections so you can decorate them differently.
4. Go ahead and start to decorate your vase with pictures, with words or graffiti letters and don't forget the color!

Grade 4, Save your vase drawing and we can use them as decorating plans for painting or glazing your clay pots next school year!

Grade 5, Send me a picture to put in the Art Gallery on my website! Sign it if you like!

Vase template is on the next page.



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