

What Forms You?

An art making activity inspired by Simone Leigh

Simone Leigh's sculptures, such as *Stretch Series #1*, *Althea*, and *Brick House*, illustrate Black women showing strength and pride in who they are. This project is about creating a sculpture about what makes you proud to be who you are.



Before you start it might be helpful to draw out some of your ideas before you begin work on your sculpture.

Some helpful questions to ask yourself include: What do you take pride in in your culture? Is it a person, place, or thing? What does your culture value? How does this all make you who you are?

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Image above: Nik Rost rendering of *Brick House* (2019) by Simone Leigh

Make Your Own Clay Dough!

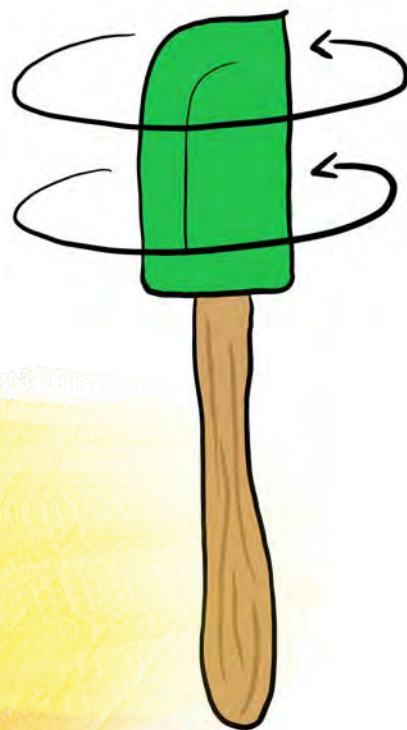
You may want to ask an adult for help with this.



1
Put your dry ingredients together and mix well.

List of dough ingredients:
2 cups of flour
1/2 cup of salt
2 tablespoons of Cream of Tartar
1 cup of warm water
2 tablespoons oil - it can be olive, peanut, or vegetable oil

2
Then add your wet ingredients and mix.

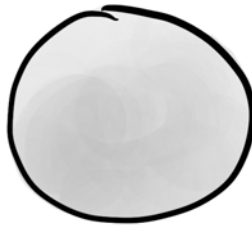


Cream of Tartar adds elasticity to the dough. If you don't have it, add a little bit of lemon juice, about 3 tablespoons. If your dough is too sticky add a little more flour.

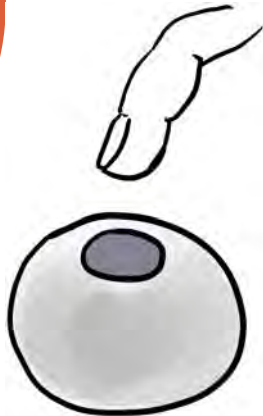
You can also divide your dough and add food coloring to different parts to create different colors.

How to Make a Pinch-Pot

While you make your pinch pot, think about what you would like to put on top. This could be a cultural symbol that you're proud of, a family member, a pet, or something else that helps make you who you are.



1
To start with a pinch pot, roll some dough into a ball.



2
Then stick one of your fingers into the middle of the ball.

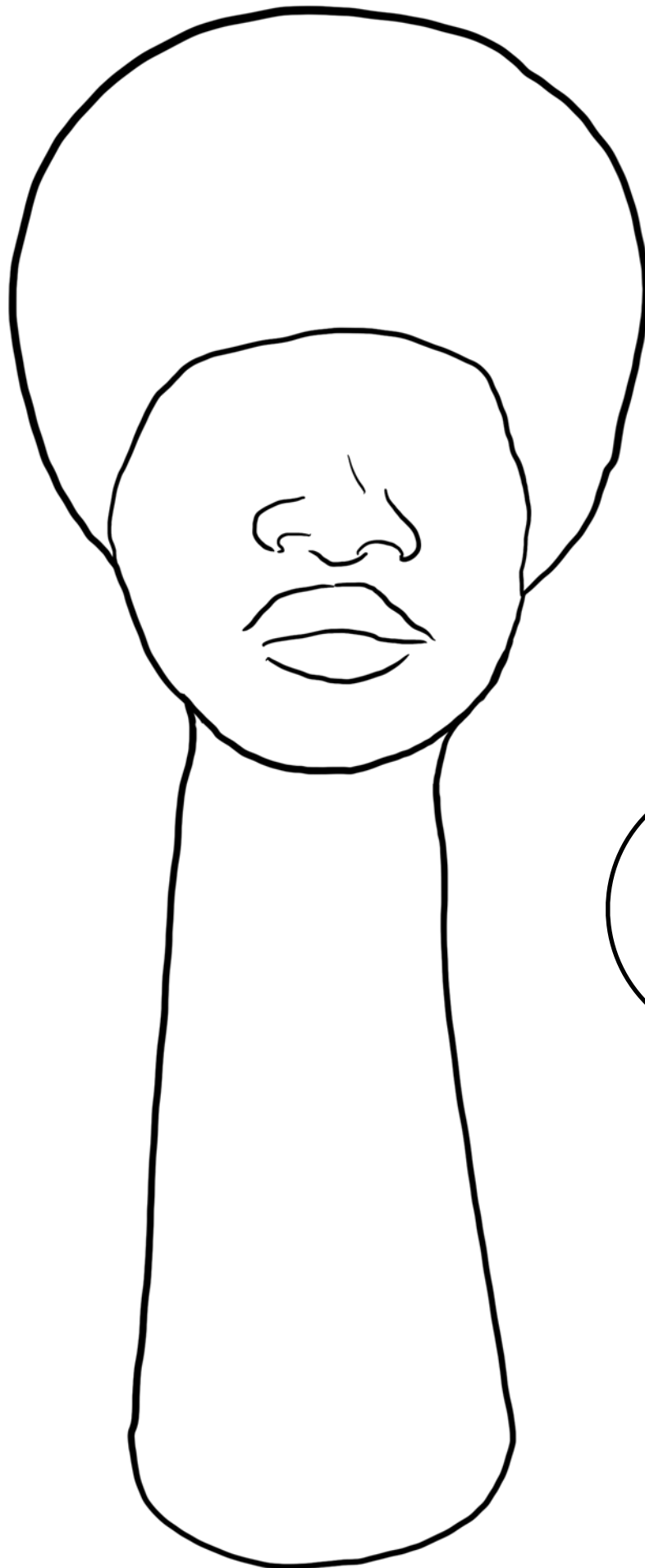


3
Finally, with a finger on the inside of the ball, use another finger on the outside to pinch the dough into a bowl shape.

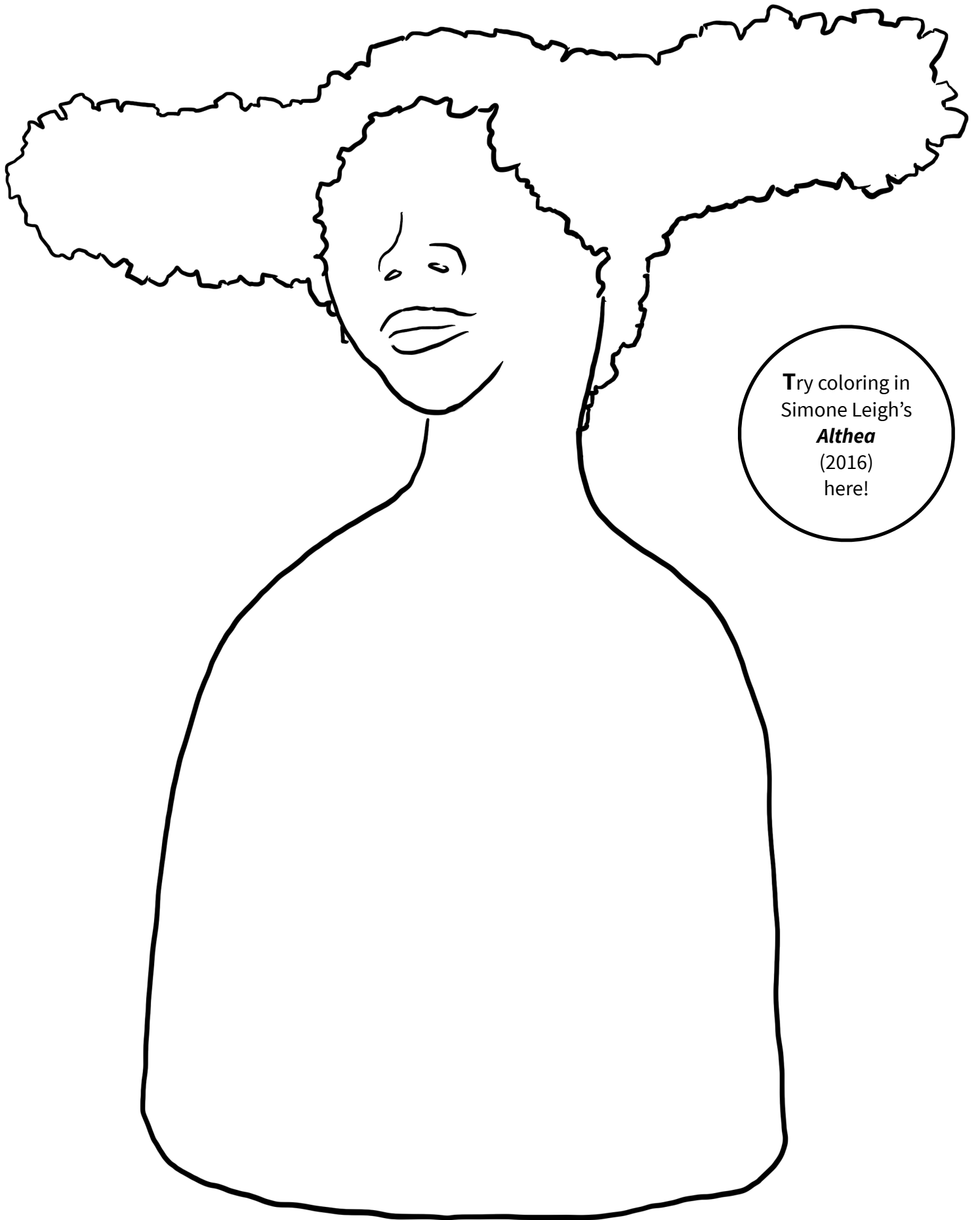
Now Make Your Sculpture

4
Now turn your pot upside-down and make an object to add on top of your pinch pot. I picked a mushroom because my family likes to eat mushrooms. I sometimes go mushroom hunting.





Try coloring in
Simone Leigh's
Stretch Series #1
(2019)
here!



Try coloring in
Simone Leigh's
Althea
(2016)
here!