

Rebecca Buck Super Modeller

We caught up with clay modeller Rebecca Buck at a Refugee Day workshop at the Visitor Centre, Libanus. Originally from New York, her specialism is sculpture.

What's your experience with the Big Skill?

When it comes to a lot of crafts, there's people who've it before and those who haven't. So it's about the experience level. But it doesn't really matter how old you are or when those things occur. So sometimes a person will be much more confident with working with paint if they've done it before.

And also children do accept the fact that they're going to not know what to do. Whereas a lot of adults really struggle with not knowing what to do. So trying something new can be hard. So the thing I like about the Big Skill is you don't actually have any parameters about who can join in, usually ever.

With clay modelling, do you think that if you have a child who's been playing with Playdoh or Plasticine, is it the same thing?

It's not the same but you might have dextrous skill that will be transferable directly to clay. You'll find clay much easier. Particularly Playdoh, Playdoh is incredibly difficult, it doesn't really hold the shape very well. And there are countless different



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types of clay and I use a good quality specific recipe for clay specifically for using it in this kind of task. So it shapes very quickly and it doesn't keep collapsing. Generally speaking, it's easier to use clay than Playdoh. It's just that if you get it up your nose, it's not as easy to get it out.

Do you make your own clay?

No, I buy it. But you can buy the ingredients and mix up your own clay. Most clays are made to a recipe like cake. So clay is made of stone and water and other stuff. It forms and collects under the ground and you can take that clay and mix it with another clay from a different geological area, add other minerals yourself and turn it into a clay that you would not find underground. You get all sorts of specialist clays where that's the case.