Plaster Carving

Requirements:

* Your project must be nonobjective (meaning it cannot look like anything recognizable from everyday life)
* When you are finished you should not be able to tell what kind of mold you used
* It can be any color you would like
* It must be sanded and smooth to be considered finished

Making Plaster:

1. Find a mold (plastic cups work great, as do milk containers or minuet made juice containers)
2. Fill your mold ¾ of the way full with warm water
3. Dump water into a mixing bowl and set mold aside
4. Pour in plaster a little bit at a time very slowly until it forms a small island on top of the water (do not mix the plaster as your pour it)
5. Once the plaster starts to mound you need to work quickly so add your color and start mixing with your hand
6. The plaster will start to thicken as you mix, so try to get all of the clumps out and the color incorporated
7. As the plaster starts to feel warm pour the mixture into your mold
8. Burp the mold by lightly tapping it on a hard surface before storage (after you burp you don’t want to move the mold much) this will release any air bubbles (if you don’t burp as you carve where the bubble are your project will crumble)
9. Let it set overnight
10. Begin carving

Hints:

* Completely removing a section can be an interesting design
* Plaster is easier to carve when it is damp (keep your projects covered)